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Indian women look to stay alive in the series

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Interest rates up on two schemes; no hike for PPF

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Friday decided to raise the returns on the Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme (SSAS) from 8% to 8.2% and on three-year time deposits from 7% to 7.1% for the first quarter of 2024, while retaining the status quo on interest rates for all other small savings schemes.

A small savings rate reset was keenly awaited as returns on these schemes had been hiked significantly ahead of the last Lok Sabha poll in January 2019. However, there was no major rejig this time around and returns on the popular Public Provident Fund (PPF), which had been hiked to 7.9% ahead of the previous Lok Sabha election, remain frozen at 7.1%.

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Centre, Assam sign peace pact with ULFA faction

Group's cadres have agreed to surrender arms, vacate their camps, engage in peaceful democratic process, says Amit Shah; tripartite settlement govt.'s success, significant for Assam's peace, he adds

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry and the Assam government signed a memorandum of settlement with the pro-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) on Friday.

Home Minister Amit Shah said the "tripartite settlement is significant for Assam's peace", and the government had achieved success in eliminating all the violent groups in the State.

"It is a golden day for Assam's future. Assam and the northeast have endured violence for decades. ULFA cadres have agreed to surrender arms and ammunition, vacate their camps and have decided to join the mainstream and engage in the peaceful democratic process established by law and maintain the integrity of the country. Since 1979, all those who were killed were the country's citizens," the Home Minister said, adding that the total number of such cadres stood at 700.

Mr. Shah said a time-bound programme would be made by the Home Ministry to fulfil the demands of the ULFA and a committee would also be formed for its monitoring.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Peace deal: Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma with members of the pro-talks United Liberation Front of Asom faction in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Nitish to helm JD(U) as Lalan Singh quits

Amit Bhelari
Sobhana K. Nair
PATNA/DELHI

Months ahead of the Lok Sabha election, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was unanimously elected president of the Janata Dal (United) at the party's national executive meeting in Delhi on Friday, after Rajiv Ranjan Singh, aka Lalan Singh, stepped down. Mr. Kumar now returns to the post for a second stint.

The change of guard comes amid speculation of a rift in the party, and a growing distance between Mr. Singh and Mr. Kumar.

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3 MLAs who missed the bus get key posts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an attempt to douse disgruntlement among senior leaders, three MLAs who did not make it to the Cabinet were given positions of Cabinet ranks on Friday.

Former Minister R.V. Deshpande has been named chairperson of the Administrative Reforms Commission, while Yelburga MLA Basavaraj Rayaraddi is Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's economic adviser. B.R. Patil, who has been Deputy Chairperson of the Council, has been appointed as Mr. Siddaramaiah's adviser.

FULL REPORT ON
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NEARBY

Fate of stud farm hangs in the balance

BENGALURU
The fate of Kunigal Stud Farm, one of the top stud farms in the country today, is hanging in the balance.Sources in the Urban Development Department confirmed the proposal for a township based on "local demand". » Page 8

Madhu convicted in cheque dishonour case

BENGALURU
A special court has convicted Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, who is a director of M/s Akash Audio-Video Pvt. Ltd., in a cheque dishonour case of 2011. » Page 8

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 5

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A BG-BGE

He's finally back! Injury-ravaged, battle-scarred, still unbroken

Rafael Nadal returns to action at the Brisbane International after almost 12 months out, the longest such break in his storied, oft-interrupted career. For his supporters — and the tennis universe at large — the 37-year-old's reappearance could not have come sooner

N. Sudarshan

In 'Levels of Life', the celebrated English author Julian Barnes confronts the grief of having lost his beloved wife of 30 years through the metaphorical arc of Gaspard-Felix Tournachon, a 19th century adventurer and balloonist who was the first man to take an aerial photograph, of Paris. It's the chronicling of a journey from the heights to the depths.

"Groundlings, we can sometimes reach as far as the gods," Barnes writes. "Some soar with art, others with religion; most with love. But when we soar, we can also crash. There are few soft landings ... Every love story is a potential grief story."

In the far removed, less serious world of sport, Rafael Nadal fans will tend to agree. When the 22-time Grand Slam champion is at his best, watching him play is like being "in a permanent state of adolescence, of thrilled discovery".

Crash landings

But no contemporary tennis player has had as many crash landings as the Spaniard. From his back to his hips to the abdomen to his knees and all the way down to his ankles and toes, all have suffered significant wear and tear over the years, forcing him out for weeks and months.

And in his absence, there has been a sense of irreparable loss. As Barnes puts it, "What is taken away is greater than the sum of what was there. This may not be mathematically possible; but it is emotionally possible."

> It's like a video game. You may think you are playing very well, but you get overtaken on the last screen and they knock you out in two minutes. [But] I think we're on the right path
>
> **CARLOS MOYA**
> Nadal's coach and former World No. 1

It is this misery that Nadal supporters – and the tennis universe at large – will seek relief from when he returns to action at the Brisbane International starting this Sunday, after nearly 12 months out, the longest such break in his career.

The 37-year-old last played a match at the 2023 Australian Open, losing to the unheralded Mackenzie McDonald in straight sets in the second round. During the contest, he was severely hampered by a hip injury, which sidelined him for the rest of the season, including the French Open, a tournament he has won a record 14 times and hadn't missed since his debut in 2005.

"I have thought many times that it did not make sense," Nadal admitted earlier this month while announcing his comeback ahead of the season-opener in Australia. "There have been many years, many hours of work in which I did not see the [desired] result. [But] I still believe that I do not deserve to end my sports career in a press room. I would like to finish in a different way."

There is both a longing to see him whip those trademark down-the-line forehands again and a fear that all of it may come undone in a flash.

Longstanding headline act

One of the greatest competitors of all time, Nadal, alongside his celebrated rival Roger Federer, has headlined men's tennis for close to a quarter century. Among male players, he was the first to reach 22 Majors, one of only three to win Slams in his teens, 20s and 30s (Ken Rosewall and Pete Sampras the others) and one of four to claim all four crown jewels at least twice (Roy Emerson, Rod Laver and Novak Djokovic the others). He also spent a men's record 912 weeks (2005-2023) in the top-10.

But with a body as tenuous as a thin sheet of ice on a frozen pond, there is always the threat of a collapse. Breakdowns in the latter half of the season have been so commonplace in Nadal's career that he has missed Wimbledon and the ATP Finals five and six times respectively and the US Open on four occasions (excluding 2020 which was because of Covid bio-bubble restrictions). In fact, in the second half of 2021, while tending to a chronic foot injury, he even considered retirement.

The test this time is of Nadal's famed bounce-backability. His most recent comebacks from serious injuries do provide hope. After the slump in 2015 and 2016, Nadal entered 14 consecutive Majors, triumphing in six, finishing runner-up twice and making four other semifinals.

In 2022, he went 36-3 until Wimbledon, securing four titles. It included the record-breaking 21st Slam in Australia, with an improbable come-from-behind five-set victory over Daniil Medvedev, and a record-extending 22nd at Roland-Garros which was made possible through pain-killing injections to keep his left foot numb.

"It's a process," said Nadal's coach and former World No. 1 Carlos Moya in an interview with ATPTour.com earlier this month. "It's like a video game. You may think you are playing very well, but you get overtaken on the last screen and they knock you out in two minutes. It's similar.

"[But as] things get increasingly difficult, your level as a player increases too. I think we're on the right path. Of course, he knows that he's not at his best level right now, but little by little he will increase it.

"During the [practice] days in Kuwait, we trained with [World No. 36 Arthur] Fils, and it was really good, much better than he could have hoped. Rafa went there thinking that he wouldn't be competitive, that he wouldn't be good enough, and he's left convinced that it might be possible."

> I will return to compete and enjoy the tournaments in that way. If suddenly my physique allows me to continue... Why am I going to set a deadline [for retirement]?
>
> **RAFAEL NADAL**

The state of play

Will the current tennis scene be hospitable? Nadal is ranked 670 at present and he can enter Brisbane and the Australian Open courtesy an injury-protected ranking of around 6, and can use it for the first nine events he plays or the first nine months beginning with his first event back, whichever occurs first.

But a protected ranking will not ensure a seeding, which means he can draw the best players, World No. 1 and 10-time champion in Melbourne Djokovic included, in the early rounds.

Nadal also has to compete with the likes of No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz, who is now a contender at every Slam he enters, and Jannik Sinner, who is up to No. 4 and appears primed for a breakthrough on the Grand Slam stage in 2024.

"There are chances that it may only be half a year," Nadal said. "There are possibilities that it may be a full year. These are things that I do not have the capacity to answer right now. I can only say that I will return to compete and I am going to enjoy the tournaments in that way."

Nadal will surely be motivated for one last dance on his favourite Parisian clay. There is also the 2024 Olympics, set to be staged at Roland-Garros in the summer. But he is yet to decide the place and time to wave the final goodbye.

"I do not want to announce it because I do not know what can happen and I have to give myself the opportunity not to say one thing and then be a slave to that. I have worked a lot to come back and compete, and if suddenly things and my physique allow me to continue and I enjoy what I do... Why am I going to set a deadline?"

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	11,245	18
2	Carlos Alcaraz	20	8,855	18
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	7,600	22
4	Jannik Sinner	22	6,490	23
5	Andrey Rublev	26	4,805	25
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	4,235	24
7	Alexander Zverev	26	3,985	27
8	Holger Rune	20	3,660	23
9	Hubert Hurkacz	26	3,245	24
10	Taylor Fritz	26	3,100	26
11	Casper Ruud	25	2,825	24
12	Alex de Minaur	24	2,740	25
13	Tommy Paul	26	2,665	26
14	Grigor Dimitrov	32	2,570	23
15	Karen Khachanov	27	2,520	22

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 138 ▼▲ No change

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 440 ▼▲ No change

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	9,295	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	9,050	16
3	Coco Gauff	19	6,580	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	6,365	18
5	Jessica Pegula	29	5,975	20
6	Ons Jabeur	29	4,195	21
7	Marketa Vondrousova	24	4,046	16
8	Karolina Muchova	27	3,650	15
9	Maria Sakkari	28	3,620	24
10	Barbora Krejcikova	28	2,880	21
11	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,855	23
12	Madison Keys	28	2,816	18
13	Jelena Ostapenko	26	2,720	23
14	Petra Kvitova	33	2,660	17
15	Qinwen Zheng	21	2,660	23

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 215 ▼ 7 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 329 ▼▲ No change

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	19	12	6	1	39	16	23	42
2	Arsenal	19	12	4	3	36	18	18	40
3	Aston Villa	19	12	3	4	40	25	15	39
4	Man. City	18	11	4	3	43	21	22	37
5	Tottenham	19	11	3	5	39	28	11	36
6	West Ham	19	10	3	6	33	30	3	33
7	Man. United	19	10	1	8	21	25	-4	31
8	Brighton	19	8	6	5	38	33	5	30
9	Newcastle	19	9	2	8	37	25	12	29
10	Chelsea	19	7	4	8	31	29	2	25
11	Wolves	19	7	4	8	27	31	-4	25
12	Bournemouth	18	7	4	7	27	32	-5	25
13	Fulham	19	6	3	10	26	34	-8	21
14	Brentford	18	5	4	9	25	28	-3	19
15	C. Palace	19	4	6	9	19	28	-9	18
16	Nott. Forest	19	4	5	10	22	34	-12	17
17	Everton *	19	8	2	9	24	25	-1	16
18	Luton Town	18	4	3	11	21	34	-13	15
19	Burnley	19	3	2	14	18	38	-20	11
20	Sheffield	19	2	3	14	15	47	-32	9

* Everton deducted 10 points following a breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules. That decision is currently under appeal.

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	18	14	3	1	39	11	28	45
2	Girona	18	14	3	1	42	21	21	45
3	Atletico Madrid	18	12	2	4	36	19	17	38
4	Barcelona	18	11	5	2	34	21	13	38
5	Athletic Bilbao	18	10	5	3	34	19	15	35
6	Real Sociedad	18	8	7	3	29	18	11	31
7	Real Betis	18	6	10	2	20	18	2	28
8	Getafe	18	6	8	4	24	23	1	26
9	Las Palmas	18	7	4	7	15	15	0	25
10	Valencia	18	6	5	7	19	22	-3	23
11	Rayo Vallecano	18	4	8	6	16	24	-8	20
12	Osasuna	18	5	4	9	21	29	-8	19
13	Villarreal	18	5	4	9	26	35	-9	19
14	Real Mallorca	18	3	9	6	17	22	-5	18
15	Sevilla	18	3	7	8	23	25	-2	16
16	Alaves	18	4	4	10	14	24	-10	16
17	Cadiz	18	2	9	7	14	24	-10	15
18	Celta Vigo	18	2	7	9	18	28	-10	13
19	Granada	18	1	5	12	20	40	-20	8
20	Almeria	18	0	5	13	19	42	-23	5

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	17	14	2	1	41	7	34	44
2	Juventus	17	12	4	1	26	11	15	40
3	AC Milan	17	10	3	4	31	20	11	33
4	Bologna	17	8	7	2	21	12	9	31
5	Fiorentina	17	9	3	5	26	18	8	30
6	Roma	17	8	4	5	30	19	11	28
7	Napoli	17	8	3	6	28	21	7	27
8	Atalanta	17	8	2	7	28	20	8	26
9	Lazio	17	7	3	7	18	18	0	24
10	Torino	17	6	6	5	15	17	-2	24
11	Monza	17	5	6	6	16	18	-2	21
12	Lecce	17	4	8	5	19	23	-4	20
13	Genoa	17	5	4	8	18	22	-4	19
14	Frosinone	17	5	4	8	22	28	-6	19
15	Sassuolo	17	4	4	9	25	32	-7	16
16	Verona	17	3	5	9	15	23	-8	14
17	Udinese	17	1	11	5	15	28	-13	14
18	Cagliari	17	3	4	10	16	31	-15	13
19	Empoli	17	3	3	11	10	30	-20	12
20	Salernitana	17	1	6	10	14	36	-22	9

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Leverkusen	16	13	3	0	46	12	34	42
2	Bayern	15	12	2	1	49	15	34	38
3	Stuttgart	16	11	1	4	37	19	18	34
4	RB Leipzig	16	10	3	3	38	17	21	33
5	Dortmund	16	7	6	3	30	25	5	27
6	Eint. Frankfurt	16	6	6	4	26	20	6	24
7	Hoffenheim	16	7	3	6	32	30	2	24
8	SC Freiburg	16	7	3	6	21	26	-5	24
9	Heidenheim	16	6	2	8	25	32	-7	20
10	Wolfsburg	16	6	1	9	20	27	-7	19
11	FC Augsburg	16	4	6	6	24	31	-7	18
12	M'gladbach	16	4	5	7	31	35	-4	17
13	Werder	16	4	4	8	23	30	-7	16
14	Bochum	16	3	7	6	18	33	-15	16
15	Union Berlin	15	4	1	10	17	31	-14	13
16	Mainz	16	1	7	8	13	28	-15	10
17	Cologne	16	2	4	10	10	28	-18	10
18	SV Darmstadt	16	2	4	10	20	41	-21	10

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	864	919
2	Joe Root	859	923
3	Steve Smith	826	947
4	Usman Khawaja	808	847
5	Babar Azam	801	882
6	Travis Head	791	884
7	Daryl Mitchell	786	804
8	Marnus Labuschagne	785	937
9	Harry Brook	773	773
10	Rohit Sharma	759	813

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	879	904
2	Kagiso Rabada	825	902
3	Pat Cummins	785	914
4	Ravindra Jadeja	782	899
5	Nathan Lyon	773	799
6	Ollie Robinson	762	820
7	James Anderson	761	903
8	Mitchell Starc	756	806
9	Prabath Jayasuriya	751	781
10	Josh Hazlewood	744	863

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	824	898
2	Shubman Gill	801	847
3	Virat Kohli	768	911
4	Rohit Sharma	746	885
5	David Warner	745	880
6	Daryl Mitchell	728	750
7	Harry Tector	723	729
8	Dawid Malan	707	730
9	Rassie van der Dussen	701	796
10	Shai Hope	699	808

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	716	741
2	Josh Hazlewood	703	733
3	Mohammed Siraj	678	736
4	Adam Zampa	675	695
5	Rashid Khan	667	806
6	Jasprit Bumrah	665	841
7	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
8	Mohammad Nabi	648	657
9	Kuldeep Yadav	645	765
10	Trent Boult	643	775

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	887	910
2	Philip Salt	802	802
3	Mohammad Rizwan	787	875
4	Aiden Markram	755	796
5	Babar Azam	734	896
6	Rilee Rossouw	689	724
7	Jos Buttler	680	687
8	Ruturaj Gaikwad	674	700
9	Reeza Hendricks	660	674
10	Dawid Malan	657	915

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Adil Rashid	726	746
2	Rashid Khan	692	816
3	Ravi Bishnoi	685	699
4	Akeal Hosein	683	683
5	Wanindu Hasaranga	679	797
6	Maheesh Theekshana	677	684
7	Fazalhaq Farooqi	657	692
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	656	745
9	Tabraiz Shamsi	654	821
10	Reece Topley	643	662

110 villages in BBMP limits to get Cauvery water from May

The BWSSB is implementing this ₹5,550-crore project, which is largely funded by the JICA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The water supply will benefit nearly 50 lakh people. FILE PHOTO

The much-awaited water supply to 110 villages under Cauvery Stage V will commence in May 2024. This will benefit nearly 50 lakh people living in these villages that come under Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Dasarahalli, Mahadevapura, Bommanahalli, and Byatarayanapura zones of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is implementing this ₹5,550 crore project, which is largely funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in an area of around 225 sq. km. Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Stage-3), Cauvery Stage 3, has been divided into ten different water component packages.

A water treatment plant at T.K. Halli is nearly completed, according to the BWSSB press release. The plant has the capacity to treat 775 million litres of water per day.

From T.K. Halli, a transition pipeline will be laid, and further, it will go to Vajarahalli, Eastern, and Western routes. From T.K. Halli to Vajarahalli, 75 km of pipeline work is being executed; at the eastern route, 54 km; at the western route, 56 km. From T.K. Halli to Vajarahalli, the pipeline will be 300 m in diameter. They are laid through a 3,000 mm underground channel. From Vajarahalli to the eastern route (up to Kadugodi) and Vajarahalli to the western route (up to Thannisandra), it will vary from 2.2 m to 0.8 m. On the Eastern route, there are 3 Ground Level Reservoirs (GLRs)and 4 GLRs on the western route. The BWSSB said the work related to the project will be completed in March 2024, after which a trial run will be conducted in April to check the efficiency of the supply.

The supply of water to the villages will start in May. The release also said the project was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a delay in permissions from NHAI

Mantri Mall gets stay against BBMP shutting it

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mantri Mall in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

A day after the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) shut down Mantri Mall at Malleshwaram for defaulting on property tax to the tune of ₹51 crore, the shopping enclave has secured a stay from a local court against the civic body's action.

The mall has resumed operations.

However, this is not the first time the BBMP has taken such an action against Mantri Mall over property tax dues. It is part of an ongoing dispute between the mall and the civic body.

A senior official in the BBMP, who oversaw the closure of the mall, said they would work hard to vacate the stay and ensure payment of pending dues.

This is the first mall this year that was shut down for not paying the tax. There are many other malls, and the BBMP said it would start closing down others too.

Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue), talking to *The Hindu*, said the BBMP was ready to take the legal battle over defaulters of property tax to pay pending bills even to the Supreme Court. "We won't let anyone evade taxes," he said.

12 outbound flights from KIA delayed due to fog at other airports

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Departure of 12 flights from Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru were delayed due to foggy conditions at various airports in India on December 29.

Bad weather

Kempegowda International Airport official said, "Flights (from Bengaluru) to Delhi, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh and some other cities were delayed due to bad weather at the destinations."

The official added that the weather in Bengaluru is fine, and there are no delays due to the weather.

Govt. to hold public grievance redressal meetings in city from January 3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will hold public grievance redressal meetings in the city from January 3.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister, D.K. Shivakumar, told a press meeting that in order to reduce the number of complaints coming at the doorsteps of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his, the State government has decided to hold Janaspandana programmes locally. The meeting will be held for citizens from two or three Assembly segments at once.

Mr. Shivakumar said the government was already holding Janaspandana meetings across the State at the district level. He further said in the meeting for citizens of the city, the officials from Bangalore Development Authority, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board and other agencies will be present. The officials, after receiving the complaints, have to resolve the problem as soon as possible.

Mr. Shivakumar said the BBMP will inform the public about designated areas where these meetings will held. "There will be a registration process, and thereafter, grievances will be received. There will be hundreds of officials from various departments to look into the problems at the spot." When asked about the property tax issue, he said the BBMP has started to close down commercial establishments that have defaulted tax, and even a school for which he was a trustee is also shut by BBMP.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the public that my client has negotiated and is intending to purchase the Property more vividly described in the Schedule, hereinafter referred to as the Schedule Property, from its lawful owner, MOHAMMED JAFFER S/o Late. Mohammed Umar Age:84 years residing at No.10, 2nd Cross, 1st Main Road, Opposite Sun Shine School, Ashwath Nagar, Bengaluru-560094.

Any persons / institutions claiming to have any right, title interest, charges, lien mortgage, or any other claim/objection whatsoever over the Schedule Property may lodge his/her/their/its claim/objection to the undersigned with documentary proof **within Fifteen (15) days** of this publication, failing which it will be presumed that there are no objections or claim or disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and my client shall proceed with the transaction so as to get the Schedule Property conveyed in his/her their favour. No such claims thereafter shall be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential House Property bearing No.10, having Old Khata No.423 New BBMP PID No.99-148-10 Situated at Ashwathnagar, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, now within the limits of BBMP Ward No.35 Aramanenagara measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 46 feet totally admeasuring 1380 Sq ft and bounded on:

East by : Property No.9, West by : Property No.11, North by :Conservancy, South by : Main Road,

BHANDARI ASSOCIATES
MOHAMMED AYUB ALI, Advocate
No.144, 6th Cross, K.E.B. Layout, Sanjaynagar, Bangalore-560094. **Mob: 9886019619**

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN – U40108JH2013-SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com

Notice inviting tender for procurement through rate contract

JBVNL invites online e-tender from reputed, technically experienced and financially sound manufacturers/ authorized supplier only for supply of following Material through rate contract :-

Sr	NIT/Tender notice No. and description of item	Tender fee	Date of publication of tender on website	Document download start date & time	Online Bid Submission start date	Online Bid Submission end date	Technical bid opening date and time
1	**304/PR/JBVNL/2023-24** ISI Marked Multi – strained armoured copper control cable i) 12Cx 2.5 sq.mm ii) 10Cx 2.5 sq.mm iii) 6Cx 2.5 sq.mm iv) 4Cx 2.5 sq.mm v) 2Cx2.5 sq.mm	Rs 10000/- + GST	02/01/2024 from 13:00 Hrs.	02/01/2024 from 13:10 Hrs.	02/01/2024 from 13:20 Hrs.	24/01/2024 upto 18:00 Hrs.	25/01/2024 at 18: 00 Hrs.

NOTE:- **(i)** Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9431135523/ 9430348596, NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178
(ii) Tender fee & EMD must be paid through online mode.
(iii) Tender fee is non-refundable.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-
General Manager (S&P)

PR 314701 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (23-24)_D

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEURO SCIENCES, (Institute of National Importance)
BANGALORE 560029 (ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT) Ph:080-26995215

Ref. No: NIMH/ENG/HOES/1315/2023-24 **Date: 29/12/2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-procurement)

Tenders on an item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Director, NIMHANS, Bangalore for the following works on the e-procurement platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from the eligible Class II and above for Sl.No. 1 & 2 and Class III and above for Sl.No. 3 to 6 (Civil/Electrical) contractors from KPWD / CPWD/CEIG with e-procurement Registration of Government of Karnataka e-portal only and last date for uploading tender is on 09.01.2024 up to 4.00 pm.
Note: GST will be paid separately on tendered / bill amount.

1	Providing Lifts, Sanitary and water supply fixtures, Plastering, Painting to internal and external walls and other allied works in the OPD and Office complex at Northern campus of NIMHANS at Kyalasanahalli, Bangalore. (On two cover system/ stage).	The approximate amount put to tender is Rs.420.44 lakhs. The period of completion of work is 11 months EMD is Rs.6,30,700/- TENDER WORK INDENT NUMBER: NIMHANS/2023-24/ BD/WORK_INDENT5.
2	Providing Lifts, fire safety related works, construction of ramp, providing paver blocks to parking area, providing sanitary and water supply line, internal and external painting and other allied works to existing New Thunga Hostel (Phase-IV) in NIMHANS campus, Bangalore. (On two cover system/ stage).	The approximate amount put to tender is Rs.421.96 lakhs. The period of completion of work is 11 months EMD is Rs.6,33,000/- TENDER WORK INDENT NUMBER: NIMHANS/2023-24/ BD/WORK_INDENT6.
3	Providing stainless steel perforated mesh windows for newly constructed Psychiatry Sub speciality block in NIMHANS campus Bangalore.	The approximate amount put to tender is Rs.130.35 lakhs. The period of completion of work is 3 months EMD is Rs.2,00,000/- TENDER WORK INDENT NUMBER: NIMHANS/2023-24/ BD/WORK_INDENT4.
4	Cleaning of water tanks (Sintex tanks, RCC tanks on terrace, sump tank, over head tanks) and water samples testing for Biochemicals in the premises of NIMHANS, NCWB and Sakalawara campus for the period from January 2024 to December-2024.	The approximate amount put to tender is Rs.38.59 lakhs. The period of completion of work is 12 months EMD is Rs.77,200/- TENDER WORK INDENT NUMBER: NIMHANS/2023-24/ OW/WORK_INDENT3.
5	Construction of Lift room, providing and commissioning of lift at connecting corridor of Psychiatry C and Psychiatry B Block in NIMHANS campus, Bangalore.	The approximate amount put to tender is Rs.48.19 lakhs. The period of completion of work is 3 months EMD is Rs.96,500/- TENDER WORK INDENT NUMBER: NIMHANS/2023-24/ OW/WORK_INDENT2.
6	Replacement of Lift in NBRC building at NIMHANS campus, Bangalore	The approximate amount put to tender is Rs.31.45 lakhs. The period of completion of work is 3 months EMD is Rs.63,000/- TENDER WORK INDENT NUMBER: NIMHANS/2023-24/ OW/WORK_INDENT1.

For information, Please visit NIMHANS website: www.nimhans.ac.in and on e-procurement platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

***Sd/-*, Head of Engg Section**
NIMHANS, Bangalore

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Tourism
MDI Building, 2nd Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-4
Ph.-0651-2400493, Fax-0651-2400492, E-mail:dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com

Ref. No.-Tou/ Dir/Yoj/13/2023 - **1278** Dated:-**28.12.2023.**

Notice Inviting Tender
for
Supply and Maintenance of Water Adventure Sports Equipment in Jharkhand

The Directorate of Tourism (DoT), Govt. of Jharkhand intends to select an Agency for Supply and Maintenance of Water Adventure Sports Equipment in Jharkhand therefore, invites interested agencies to submit their Bids.

Interested agencies may download the document from **28/12/2023, 1700 Hours** onwards from the Department of Tourism website:–www.tourism.jharkhand.gov.in/_and submit their Applications. The Bid Due Date is on **18/01/2024 at 1200 Hours**. A Technical Bid opening Conference will held on **18/01/2024 at 1300 Hours** at the office of Directorate of Tourism (DoT), Govt. of Jharkhand.

A pre-application conference will held on 03/01/2024 by 12:00 Hours at MDI Building, 2nd floor, HEC Campus, Dhurwa, Ranchi –04, Tel Phone: 0651-2400493, e-mail: dirjharkhand tourism@ gmail.com.

All subsequent notifications, changes and amendments will be posted only on the website www.tourism.jharkhand.gov.in

DoT reserves the right to cancel this invitation and/or invite fresh Bid with or without amendments to this invitation, without liability or any obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Director, Tourism.

PR.NO.314608 Tourism, Art Culture Sports And Youth Affairs (23-24):D

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Division,
LPSC CAMPUS
80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru.
Ph No: 080-25037-131/174/214

Date: 29.12.2023

e-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Item rate tenders are invited for the following work.

Name of work	**Providing & Fixing of Lead Lined Doors at Old-X Ray Facility at LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru.**
Tender Notice No	**CMD/LPSC(B)/C/MI/31/2023-24 dated: 08.12.2023**
Estimated amount	**₹ 22.92 Lakhs**
Period of completion	**2 Months**
Sale Period	**From 29.12.2023 to 07.01.2024**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 45,840/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO .** Also detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in**

Sd/- Head, CMD, LPSC (B)

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- Venue: **Centre for Business Analytics,** RV Institute of Management, Jayanagar, Bengaluru
- Eligibility: Graduates from any discipline
- Mode: Hybrid (Blend of Online & Offline)
- Duration: ONE year - 2 semesters of 5 months each & Two months Real World Capstone Project
- Tuition fees: Rs 1,50,000/-
- Timings: Mon to Fri: 6.30pm to 9.00pm Sat: 2.30pm to 9.00pm

Scan QR code for Course details, to register & pay the fee

Contact Person : Prof. Mithun D J
Mob: 9844284240 Ph: 08042540300
Website : www.rvim.edu.in

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KRISHNA Kumar Chaudhary, S/o Suresh Chaudhary, R/a No.174, AVM Road, Vijayashree Layout, Hulimavu Gate, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560076 have changed my name to Siddharth Kumar Chaudhary vide affidavit dt: 29.12.2023 sworn before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, B'lore

I, ARYAN Kumar Chaudhary, S/o Suresh Chaudhary, R/a No.174, AVM Road, Vijayashree Layout, Hulimavu Gate, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560076 have changed my name to Aryan Kumar, vide affidavit dt: 29.12.2023 sworn before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, B'lore

I, PRISHA Ajit Kumar, R/a No.659, 11th Main Road, 46th Cross, 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010 have changed my name to Prisha Ajit Kumar Jain vide affidavit dt: 29.12.2023 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru

I, KARAN Kamal Kumar, R/a No.10/3, Montreal Manor Apt, Flat No.103, Shopping Street, Kumar Park West, Bangalore-560020 have changed my name to Karan Kamal Punmiya vide affidavit dt: 29.12.2023 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

I, S Abdul Raheem, S/o Late H Abdul Sattar, R/a No.36/A, 2nd Floor, 6th Cross, Kanakanagar, RT Nagar, Bangalore-560032 hereby state that both the names S Abdul Raheem and Abdur Raheem S belongs to one and the same person i.e., me only vide affidavit dt: 28.12.2023 sworn before Notary Vijayalakshmi.K, B'luru

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARAVIND S Nair is legal father of Aaravi Aravindkrishna DOB 11/09/19 Residing at Nedumpathalil(H), Theerthapadapurm Post, Vazhoor, Kottayam-686505 have changed my minor daughter's name from Aaravi Aravindkrishna to Aaravi Aravind Krishna vide affidavit dated 26/12/23 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

I, SHRIDEVI.G, R/at No.538,1st Cross, Rachenahalli Main Road, Thanisandra, S. R. K. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560077 have changed my name from Shridevi.G to Sridevi vide affidavit dated 29/12/2023 before Notary R.Basavaraja, Bengaluru.

I, G. NAZEER Ahamed, S/o G.Basha, R/at No.1, 55, East Street, M G Garden, Neelasandra, Bangalore-560047 have changed my name to G Nasir Qureshi vide affidavit dated 28/12/2023 before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I, RAFIQ, S/o Madasab, R/at No.98, 4th Cross, G.R.Homes Layout, Rayadandra, Bangalore-560099 have changed my name to Shaik Mahammad vide affidavit dated 29/12/2023 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, RAJESHA Karagegowda S/o Karagegowda residing at No.90/1-113, 2nd Main, 4th Cross, Vittal Nagar West, Bengaluru-560026 have changed my name to Rajesh Karage Gowda vide affidavit dated 29/12/2023 before S. Ramesh, Notary Bengaluru.

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Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS)
(Under O/o the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India)
Taramani,Chennai-600113.

CORRIGENDUM

Advertisement No. SETS/Chn/Rec/2023-24/17 &18 dated 9th November 2023.

The above Recruitment Advertisements, which were published on 10th November 2023 in Times of India/ Hindustan Times/The Hindu Classified and extended vide Advertisement dated 16th December 2023 inviting applications for **Four positions of Senior Scientist,** SETS Chennai on Direct Recruitment Mode.**The updated detailed advertisement & Online Application Form has been uploaded for online submission and the last date for receipt of applications is extended up to 17th January 2024.** Other Terms and conditions remains same.

For detailed advertisement and application format, please visit our website **www.setsindia.in**

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF LXXIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL, AT BANGALORE (CCH- 74)
O.S. NO. 25755/2023
Hg: 03/02/2024

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Cirle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390 007. And its branch office at Mythree Center, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
...Plaintiff

And
Srinivasamurthy. S.
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Srinivasamurthy. S.
Aged about 46 years,
S/o : Sriramanaidu,
R/a : Sriram, 3, 2nd Main Road, 3rd Cross Pattegara Palya, Near Vasu Medical Store, Basaveshwaranagar Bengaluru- 560079

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs.3,42,479/- (as on 07/03/2023)** along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the LXXIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore **[CCH 74]** in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 03rd February, 2024 at 11 A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 20th day of December, 2023.

By order of the court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore-560 052

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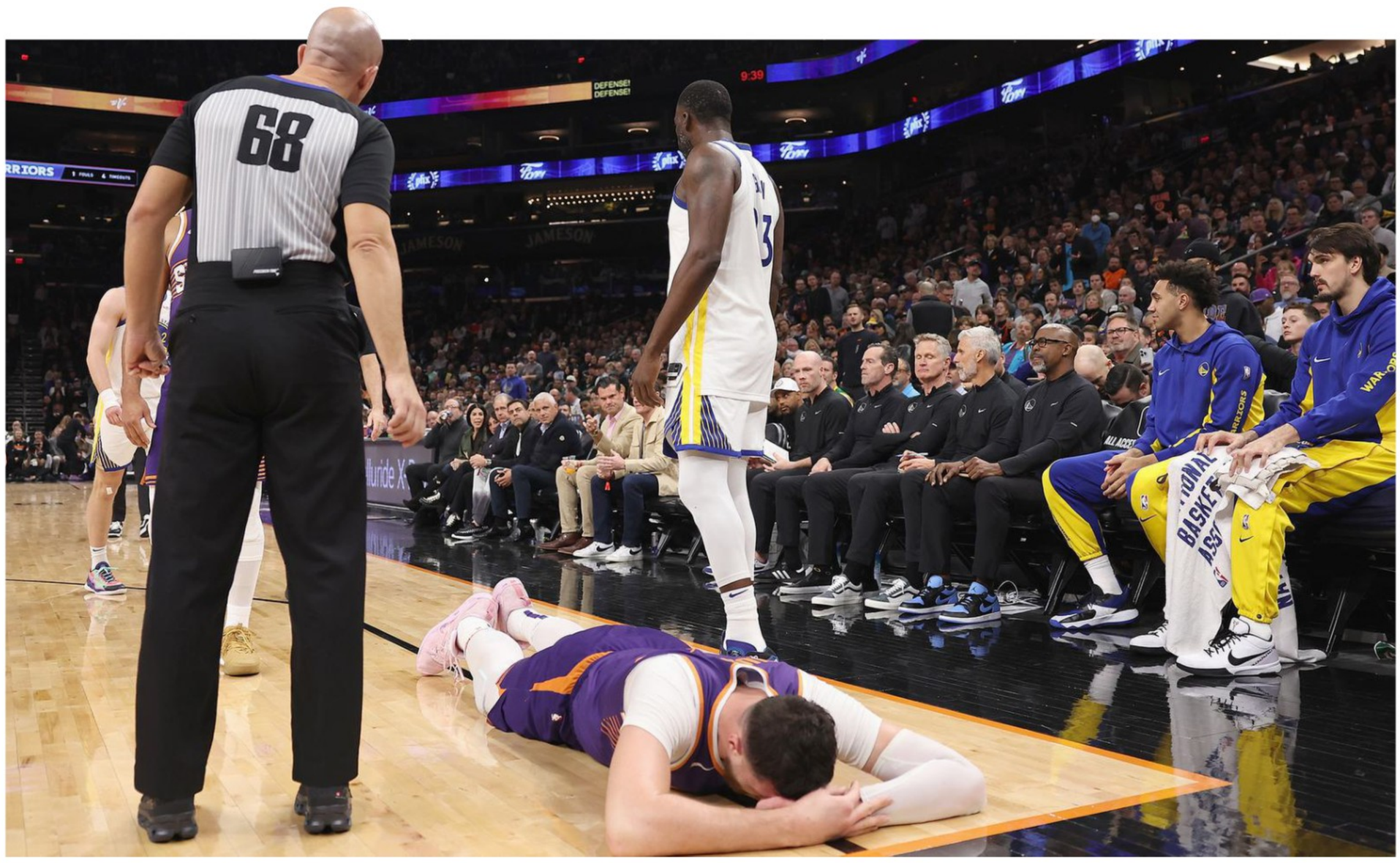


Unsavoury conduct: Jusuf Nurkic of the Phoenix Suns lays on the court after being struck by Draymond Green of the Golden State Warriors during an NBA game in Phoenix, Arizona. GETTY IMAGES

NBA lays down a marker in Morant, Green episodes

The league's zero-tolerance policy towards behaviour that paints it in a bad light has faced major tests this year. The sanctions dealt out in cases involving big stars suggest that the NBA is determined to prevent a return to the wild days of the 1980s and 90s

Ashwin Achal

The script could not have been written any better. Returning from a lengthy 25-game suspension for being filmed on two separate occasions displaying a gun, Ja Morant sunk a tough last-gasp bucket to give Memphis Grizzlies a thrilling 115-113 win over New Orleans Pelicans.

On the last play of the game, Morant provided the exclamation point when he drove through the lane, made a spin move, jumped and dropped a floater to deflate the Pelicans.

Immediate impact

The clock ran out, and Morant was immediately surrounded by his jubilant teammates. The Grizzlies were over the moon to have their star back on the court, having slipped to a 6-19 losing record during his absence.

Morant finished the night with 34 points, 8 assists and 6 rebounds – a spectacular effort which galvanised the Grizzlies into action when the side trailed the Pelicans by 24 points in the second quarter. After Morant's return, the Grizzlies strung together four successive wins. There are still miles to go before the unit can think of making it to the playoffs, but hope abounds.

> To me, this is about more than basketball. It's about helping Draymond [Green]. I think it's an opportunity for Draymond to step away and make a change in his approach and his life
>
> **STEVE KERR**
> Golden State Warriors coach

At the post-match media conference, Morant said, "It was the perfect ending to the day. Over this time [suspension period], I put a lot of trust in god. I'm letting him lead me."

It has been an emotional rollercoaster for Morant's family, too. "It's a lot of emotions going through my whole family," he said. "We were all pretty excited about my comeback, but also sad in a sense. Having my father courtside, seeing him root for me and my team – it was big for me."

Morant believes that the team is now well poised to go on a grand run. "I do feel like with me being back, we should be a good team. We should keep doing the good things, but the number one thing is holding each other accountable on the court," he said.

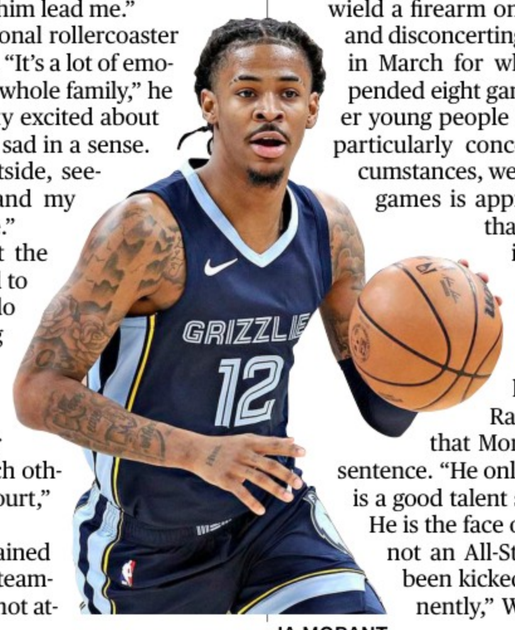
The 24-year-old explained that during the game, a teammate chastised him for not attempting a rebound. This type of constructive criticism makes the team better. "It helped me lock in, and I finished with six rebounds," Morant said.

Warnings unheeded

There is a dark undercurrent that runs through this otherwise inspirational tale. The long suspension in itself could have been avoided, had Morant taken his warnings seriously.

In March, Morant received his first punishment when he was banned for eight games after an Instagram Live video showed him displaying a firearm in a nightclub. Morant spent time at a counselling facility, and said that he had learnt his lesson. But just a couple of months later, Morant blundered when he was filmed with a firearm in a car.

The repeat offence did not go down well with the league. "Ja Morant's decision to once again wield a firearm on social media is alarming and disconcerting given his similar conduct in March for which he was already suspended eight games. The potential for other young people to emulate Ja's conduct is particularly concerning. Under these circumstances, we believe a suspension of 25 games is appropriate and makes clear that engaging in reckless and irresponsible behaviour with guns will not be tolerated," NBA commissioner Adam Silver said.



JA MORANT

Some former players, like four-time NBA All-Star Rasheed Wallace, believe that Morant got away with a light sentence. "He only got 25 games because he is a good talent showpiece for this league. He is the face of Memphis. If Morant was not an All-Star talent, he would have been kicked out of the league permanently," Wallace said on the Underdog NBA YouTube channel.

> Morant's decision to once again wield a firearm on social media is alarming ... a suspension of 25 games makes [it] clear that engaging in reckless, irresponsible behaviour with guns will not be tolerated
>
> **ADAM SILVER**
> NBA commissioner

Gun-related incidents involving NBA players are not without precedent. In the 2009-10 season, Washington Wizards teammates Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton got into an argument and reportedly drew firearms on each other in the locker room. This resulted in both players being suspended for the rest of the season. While Arenas eventually made it back to the NBA, Crittenton's life derailed. In 2011, Crittenton was charged with the murder of Jullian Jones, a 22-year-old mother of four, and received a 23-year prison sentence.

The NBA has a zero-tolerance policy towards behaviour that paints the league in a bad light. The reason for this strict stance can be traced back to the 1980s and 1990s, when many hoopsters were hooked on drugs, alcohol and the violence it brought. The league was also perceived to be associated with thugs and gangsters, which made it tough to find sponsors.

It was David Stern, Silver's predecessor, who took up the task of cleaning up the league. He even introduced a formal dress code for players entering the arenas and came down heavily on anyone who strayed from what was expected from professional athletes.

Unsportsmanlike acts

It is in this context that Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green finds himself indefinitely suspended for striking Phoenix Suns centre Jusuf Nurkic in the face during a game earlier this month. The punishment also took into account Green's repeated history of unsportsmanlike acts, which included putting Minnesota Timberwolves centre Rudy Gobert in a headlock in November.

These confrontations were commonplace in the old era, when fights broke out often and repercussions were mild. In modern-day NBA, however, things are vastly different.

Green apologised to Nurkic. "He was pulling my hip and I was swinging away to sell the call. I made contact with him. As you know, I'm not one to apologise for things I meant to do, but I do apologise to Jusuf, because I didn't intend to hit him," Green said.

Nurkic believes that Green "needs help". "What's going on with him, I don't know. Personally, I feel like that brother needs help. I'm glad he didn't try to choke me... That had nothing to do with basketball. I'm just out there trying to play basketball," Nurkic said.

Green is reportedly in counselling – part of the process in his bid to return to the court.

Warriors head coach Steve Kerr believes that the NBA did the right thing by suspending Green. "To me, this is about more than basketball. It's about helping Draymond. I think it's an opportunity for Draymond to step away and to make a change in his approach and his life. And that's not an easy thing to do," Kerr said.

"Because the one who grabbed Rudy, choked Rudy, the one who took a wild flail at Jusuf, the one who punched Jordan [Poole] last year, that's the guy who has to change and he knows that," Kerr, a nine-time NBA champion as player and coach, said.

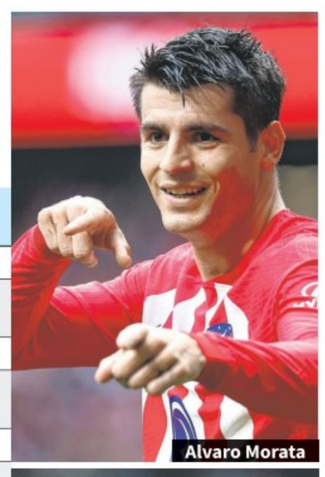
The Morant and Green episodes lay down a marker for the enforcement of the standards set by the NBA. Players must remain consummate professionals, or risk facing severe sanctions. The Wild Wild West NBA era, which some older fans still yearn for, is long gone.

GAME THEORY

Sharpshooters on Europe's biggest stage

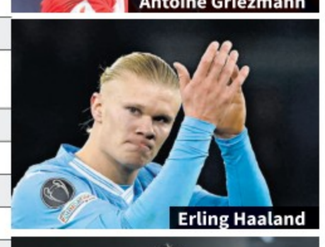
With the Champions League taking a break before its knockout phase, we look at the top scorers from the group stage in the 2023-24 season:

Player	Club	Appearances	Minutes played	Goals	Goals per 90
Alvaro Morata	Atletico	6	444	5	1.01
Antoine Griezmann	Atletico	6	460	5	0.98
Erling Haaland	Man City	5	421	5	1.07
Rasmus Hojlund	Man Utd	6	489	5	0.92
Danylo Sikan	Shakhtar	6	480	4	0.75
Evanilson	Porto	5	318	4	1.13
Gabriel Jesus	Arsenal	5	323	4	1.11
Harry Kane	Bayern	6	530	4	0.68
Jude Bellingham	Real Madrid	5	449	4	0.80
Julian Alvarez	Man City	4	155	4	2.32
Lois Openda	RBL	6	406	4	0.89
Galeno	Porto	5	443	4	0.81
Brais Mendez	Real Sociedad	5	392	3	0.69
Bukayo Saka	Arsenal	5	335	3	0.81
Ciro Immobile	Lazio	6	372	3	0.73
Ferran Torres	Barcelona	6	333	3	0.81
Joao Felix	Barcelona	5	318	3	0.85
Joao Mario	Benfica	5	327	3	0.83
Joselu	Real Madrid	5	242	3	1.12
Kylian Mbappe	PSG	6	540	3	0.50
Lukas Lerager	Copenhagen	6	540	3	0.50
Phil Foden	Man City	5	387	3	0.70
Rodrygo	Real Madrid	6	480	3	0.56

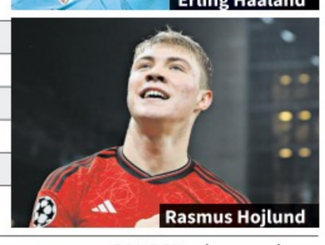


Alvaro Morata

Antoine Griezmann



Erling Haaland



Rasmus Hojlund

SOURCE: whoscored.com

PICTURE THIS

Warp speed

Badminton is an incredibly fast sport, with a lot of action compressed into very short time spans — as this photograph of dominant World No. 1 An Seyoung suggests.

An's mastery of the speed and skill the sport demands contributed to a historic 2023 for the 21-year-old.

She became the first woman from South Korea to win singles gold at the World Championships, defeating two Olympic champions — Chen Yu Fei and Carolina Marin — on route to the title. An rose to the top of the badminton world for the first time this year. Although she failed in her mission to round off a title-rich 2023 by winning the World Tour Finals, where this photograph was taken, she enters 2024 as a strong favourite for the upcoming Paris Olympics. "I'm training like a champion to become a champion... to be able to see the big picture moving forward," she said. "I'd only dreamt of becoming World No. 1. But now I've reached that goal I'm a little bit under pressure and worried about staying there.

"That said, I'm thinking about keeping up the good work and living up to the expectations."

Girl found dead in swimming pool of apartment complex

She left home saying she was going out to play, but was later found motionless in the swimming pool

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A nine-year-old girl was found dead in the swimming pool of a residential apartment complex in Varthur on the night of December 28. The deceased, Manya, was out playing when the incident occurred at around 8 p.m. on Thursday.

She left home, saying she was going out to play, but was later found lying motionless in the swimming pool. She was rushed to a private hospital where the doctor declared her dead.

While it was assumed that the girl had died by drowning, the girl's father, Rakesh, has alleged that she died by electrocution.

Several residents of the apartment staged a flash protest on Thursday night against the manager of the apartment complex, who has now gone missing

"She has come in contact with a live wire near the swimming pool. Though a few people tried to get her away, they couldn't. By the time they got a wood plank, the damage was done," he told media persons, appealing for strict action against those responsible for the tragedy and ensuring the safety of everyone, especially children in the apartment complex.

"Several hours after the complaint too, no action has been taken against anyone," he alleged.

Several residents of the apartment staged a flash protest on Thursday night against the manager of the apartment complex, who has now gone missing. Another resident of the apartment complex told media persons that they had complained about electric shocks around the swimming pool area earlier, too, but no action was taken.

Varthur Police have filed an unnatural death registry report and said they were awaiting the post-mortem report to ascertain the exact cause of death before taking further action.

Protests continue demanding release of KRV president

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after vandalism by activists of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike and the arrest of its president T.A. Narayana Gowda, Kannada organisations continued their protests on Friday too.

KRV members staged a protest at Freedom Park, demanding the release of their leaders. "Narayana Gowda is unwell and suffering from many ailments; he needs immediate medical attention and rest. Hence, the government should make necessary arrangements to release him," Arun Javagal, Organisation secretary, KRV, said.

A similar protest was held at the Badminton Association, Vasanth Nagar, which was led by Praveen Shetty of another faction of KRV.

Kannada activist Sa. Ra. Govindu, writers Doddarange Gowda, Hampa Nagarajaiah, and Kannada Sahitya Parishad president Mahesh Joshi demanded that the government immediately release all the arrested Kannada activists, including Mr. Gowda and said if the cases are not withdrawn against them, they will intensify protests.

T.A. Narayana Gowda

The Chikkajala police had arrested Mr. Gowda and his associates amidst high drama after the protesters pelted stones at a moving BMTC bus and even vandalised shops and commercial establishments as part of the protest on Wednesday. When the police arrested Mr. Gowda,

When the police arrested T.A. Narayana Gowda, KRV activists blocked the road while he was being taken to the magistrate court

KRV activists blocked the road while he was being taken to the magistrate court and tried to deflate the tyres to stop vehicle ferrying their leader.

However the police managed to take Narayana Gowda and 28 of his associates and produced them before the magistrate. Mr. Gowda has been remanded into judicial custody for 14 days and has been lodged at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. His family members and KRV activists had a tiff with even jail authorities when they refused to let food and clothes from home for him.

KRV's legal team is working on securing bail for him.

11th century Jain sculptures discovered in Varuna village

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Three Jain sculptures and dated to around 11th century CE were discovered in Varuna village in Mysuru district early this week.

The sculptures were amidst a heap of debris and were recovered while digging for drainage work.

While one of the sculpture was dilapidated beyond recognition, the two others were in a fairly good condition. Prof. N.S. Rangaraju of INTACH Mysuru said that of the two idols or sculptures, one of them is that of a Jain Teerthankara but it was difficult to ascertain the identity in the absence of symbols which may have been effaced or damaged. The sculptures were shifted to the archaeology museum at the premises of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalay. Information about the discovery of the sculptures was provided by a local person following a team comprising Prof. Rangaraju, Dr. Manjula, Dr. Shashidhar, and Prasanna Kumar from Dharmasthala Trust, and Vinod Jain of Mysuru reached the spot and retrieved the idols. Prof. Rangaraju said the entire belt comprising Varuna, Varakodu etc. were thriving Jain centres.

One of the Jain sculptures dating back to 11th century CE which was discovered at Varuna village in Mysuru district and which has been shifted to ASI museum.

Villagers protest closure of veterinary hospital off Sarjapur Road

Farmers protesting the closure of a veterinary hospital in Bengaluru on Friday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Villagers of Halanayakanahalli off Sarjapur Road brought their cattle to a protest against the closure of the veterinary hospital in their village. It's one among 28 such hospitals that have been shut down in Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts.

The Animal Husbandry Department recently proposed to "relocate" hospitals from districts where the hospital-to-cattle ratio was good to districts where it was poor.

The Department said since there was a huge demand for new veterinary hospitals across the State, there was no proposal to open any new hospitals.

The villagers who herded their cattle, including buffaloes and cows, to the building that housed the veterinary hospital until recently said they would intensify the protest and block Sarjapura Road with their cattle if the hospital was not reopened by Tuesday. The hospital served 17 villagers around the area.

"The Department claims the survey showed there were not enough cattle in the area, which is blatantly false. If the hospital is not reopened, we will intensify protests from Tuesday," said H.S. Gaurav, an advocate and social activist who led the protest.

The closure of the Veterinary Hospital, Jayanagar, has also drawn criticism from pet lovers and animal rights activists in the city. The Jayanagar Canine Squad, a voluntary organisation working on rescuing and treating accident-prone stray dogs, had written to K. Venkatesh, Minister for Animal Husbandry, taking objection to the proposal to shut down the Veterinary Hospital, Jayanagar. "Our fears have turned real, and despite our appeals to the Minister, the hospital has been shut down," said C.N. Kumar, an activist who had been lobbying hard against closure of the hospital.

Toilet cleaning: Fresh guidelines to be issued

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Along with teachers, members of the School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) will have responsibility for ensuring no child is engaged in cleaning work in schools, said Minister for School Education Madhu Bangarappa. Interacting with the media at Kuppali in Tirthahalli taluk on Friday, Mr. Madhu Bangarappa said he held a meeting with senior officers of the department in Bengaluru on Thursday on this issue.

Post meeting

The meeting resolved to issue fresh guidelines to schools to stop repeating such incidents.

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173 new COVID cases, two more deaths reported

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State reported two more deaths on Saturday, taking the total number of COVID-19 deaths to 11 since December 15. Of these, three deaths were due to JN.1, according to genome sequencing reports.

Two male patients aged 69 and 59 years from Bengaluru Urban diagnosed with ILI and SARI respectively died on December 27 and December 29. While one of them had diabetes, hypertension and chronic kidney disease, the other had diabetes. Recording a further spike on Saturday, the State reported 173 new cases. With this, the number of active patients shot up to 702. As many as 8,349 tests were done in the last 24 hours, of which 6,400 were RT-PCR tests. While the Test Positivity Rate (TPR) stood at 2.07%, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) touched 1.15%.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, DEC. 30	
RISE 06:41	SET 18:03
RISE 21:02	SET 09:18
SUNDAY, DEC. 31	
RISE 06:41	SET 18:04
RISE 21:50	SET 09:58
MONDAY, JAN. 01	
RISE 06:41	SET 18:04
RISE 22:36	SET 10:34

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	22
Mysuru	30	22
Bengaluru	27	19

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid.. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will remain cool.

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THE HINDU
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Kannada cinema in 2023: 'Pan-India' mantra falls flat in a mixed-bag year

Films aiming to be pan-Indian bit the dust, while quality writing and extraordinary promotions helped small-scale-yet-ambitious projects find success and please the local audience

REWIND 2023

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

After the humongous success of *KGF: Chapter 1* (2018), a Kannada monthly magazine commented that the film's popularity would be a double-edged sword for the Kannada film industry. This prediction came true in 2023 when R Chandru's *Kabzaa* was declared a colossal mess. While the period gangster drama got dismissed as a *KGF* rehash, Prashanth Neel, the director of the *KGF* films, was slammed for having a hangover of the Yash-starrer in the recent action-drama *Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire*.

KGF enticed Kannada filmmakers to follow the pan-India route to earn big bucks. But success has no formula in cinema, and the failure of Darshan's *Kranti* was a fine example of this notion. Releasing a film in five languages for the sake of it is a recipe for disaster; Darshan's *Kaatera,* which received a terrific opening on the last Friday of the year, was well aware of that.

A rare cut out of writer Poornachandra Tejaswi outside a cinema screening 'Daredevil Musthafa'.

Darshan, who has been an advocate of doing films only for the Kannada audience, was vociferous in confirming his stance.

"I don't fear the competition from other industries. Why should we hesitate to release our films in Kannada in Karnataka?" he asked the reporters during a press conference.

Local audience matters

"Post the success of *KGF: Chapter 2, Kantara and 777 Charlie,* filmmakers set out to conquer the country. But reality told them it's important to cater to their local audiences first. Regular Kannada filmgoers look forward to truly Kannada films and not necessarily for stories on a pan-India scale," says senior film writer S Shyam Prasad. The strong demand from the local audience for Kannada-dubbed films has propelled the dubbing movement in the State. From being in a nascent stage a couple of years ago, the campaign is seeing progress, says Ganesh Chethan of Kannada Grahakara Koota, a consumer forum that fought a legal battle against the dubbing ban in Karnataka.

Bright sparks

Hemanth M Rao's *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello* ('Side A' and 'Side B'), the romantic drama starring Rakshit Shetty and Rukmini Vasanth, and the superbly-entertaining campus drama *Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare,* were able to cross borders and entice the non-Kannada audience, so much so that the two films got dubbed in several languages.

There were other encouraging attempts in the coming-of-age drama *Hondisi Bareyiri* and the musical drama *Orchestra Mysuru* that suffered in theatres, but shone brightly in the streaming space.

Quality writing

Some films (*Tagaru Palya* and *Kaiva)* promised quality content but couldn't capitalise on their solid premises.

The gifted Pawan Kumar ventured into Malayalam with *Dhoomam*. It turned out to be an underwhelming affair, whereas Raj B Shetty's *Toby* and *Swathi Mutthina Male Haniye* were far from poor films, but left people wanting more.

Quality writing can propel unique concepts, as proved by the likes of *Pinki Elli?, Aachar & Co, and Daredevil Musthafa*. Talented writers are the need of the hour. Kannada cinema earned a new-found reputation in 2022; it's not rocket science to understand that it's a challenge to sustain it.

Gang of four peddlers arrested for selling drugs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Nelamangala rural police caught a gang of four drug peddlers red-handed while trying to sell marijuana to the people near a truck parking lot near a dhaba in Hucchegowdanapalya on Thursday.

The police recovered 1.2 kg of marijuana from them. According to the police, the accused are habitual offenders involved in highway robberies. The police have recovered 17 mobile phones worth ₹4 lakh from them. The accused would perform bike stunts on the highway and target people moving alone, a police officer said.

In another incident, Parappana Agarahara police arrested a woman and recovered 2.11 kg of Marijuana worth ₹1 lakh from her.

The accused identified as Rita Devi, a native of Madhubani in Bihar was caught red-handed while trying to sell the drugs on the roadside near a garment factory.

Convocation of Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences held

As many as 1,865 students received their degree certificates at the convocation. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 1,865 students received their degree certificates, including 23 Ph.D. degrees, at the eighth convocation of Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences on Friday. A total of 37 students were honoured with the "Dr. M S Ramaiah Gold Medal" for academic excellence. Another 37 students received the "Smt. Venkatamma Ramaiah Silver Medal" for academic excellence.

The chief guest Prof. J.N. Reddy, Distinguished Professor, Texas A and M University, USA, and Member National Academy of Engineering, USA, advised students that embracing failure and learning from it was crucial for personal growth and success.

CM seeks ₹1,000 cr. action plan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday sought an action plan of ₹1,000 crore to develop minority-dominated localities in Karnataka.

At a meeting to review the Minority Welfare Department, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the action plan should cover areas where the minority population is large.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also assured that his government was ready to pay scholarships for minority students as the Centre had stopped it. "The government is ready to pay scholarships to 6.4 lakh students. While ₹ 60 crore is earmarked in the Budget, another ₹ 40 crore must be arranged with funds available with the department through re-appropriation," Mr. Siddaramaiah added, according to a CMO release.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified to the General Public, that my clients **1. Mr. K.M. Narayanaswamy** son of late Munishamappa, aged about 49 years, **2. Mr. K.R. Srinath,** son of late Ramakrishanappa aged about: 39 years, both are residing at: Koraluru Village, Naduvatti Post, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru-560 067 is intended to purchase the property detailed in the schedule hereunder from its owners **1. SMT. MUNIYAMMA,** W/o. Late. Anjinappa, Daughter in Law of Late. Thimmarayappa, Aged about 69 years, Aadhar. No. 2762 9939 2854. **2. SRI. VENKATESHAPPA,** S/o. late Thimmarayappa, aged about: 53 Years, Aadhar. No. 2090 1879 3712. **3. SRI. ANJINAPPA,** S/o. Thimmarayappa, aged about: 45 years Aadhar. No. 4281 2264 5286. All R/at: Mallimakanapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. And **4. SRI. RAJANNA .M.N,** S/o. Late. Narayanappa, Aged about 64 years, Aadhar. No. 7719 5190 1336. R/at: Mallimakanapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, of the below immovable schedule property anybody having any objections relating to the intended sale transaction involving the schedule properties may lodge their objection with the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this Publication. In case of there being no objections from anybody, my client will proceed to purchase the schedule properties.
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ITEM NO.2 : All piece and parcel of Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.24/7 Old Sy.No.24/3, measuring 30.08 Guntas Situated at: Mallimakanapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. Bounded on:- **East by :** Property belongs to Rajanna and Narayanappa, **West by :** Private Property, **North by :** Property belongs to Venkatesh Muniyamma, **South by :** Road,
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ई–अति अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–अति अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- **RWD/EE/JSR/STPKG/03/RII/2023-24** दिनांक :- **29.12.2023**
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार **e-procurement** पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईडेन्टीफिकेशनसंख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल संख्या
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		पोटका प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत समाईडीह से खापरसाई तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–3.880 कि0मी0)	2,73,34,200.00	दो करोड़ तिहत्तर लाख चौंतीस हजार दो सौ रू0 मात्र		
		पोटका प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत रोलाडीह से खापरसाई तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–5.210 कि0मी0)	3,25,99,500.00	तीन करोड़ पच्चीस लाख निन्यानवे हजार पाँच सौ रू0 मात्र		
		कुल	**11,27,79,700.00**	**ग्यारह करोड़सताईस लाख उनासी हजार सात सौ रू0 मात्र**		
2.	RWD/EE/JSR/STPKG/04/2023-24	पोटका प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत हरिणा से बुनूडीह चौक तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–3.050 कि0मी0)	1,89,21,300.00	एक करोड़ नवासी लाख एक्कीस हजार तीन सौ रू0 मात्र	9 माह	तृतीय
		पोटका प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत L113 से पण्ड्रासोली तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–1.730 कि0मी0)	1,00,49,100.00	एक करोड़ उन्चास हजार एक सौ रू0 मात्र		
		पोटका प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत L089 से पोरसा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–1.250 कि0मी0)	82,35,000.00	बिरासी लाख पैंतीस हजार रू0 मात्र		
		पोटका प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत पिछली से बाघडीह तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–3.440 कि0मी0)	1,93,98,300.00	एक करोड़ तिरानवे लाख अन्ठानवे हजार तीन सौ रू0 मात्र		
		पोटका प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत रादुर से कोपे तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–2.900 कि0मी0)	1,84,70,900.00	एक करोड़ चौरसी लाख सत्तर हजार नौ सौ रू0 मात्र		
		पोटका प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत पुटूडोनी से सिदिरसाई तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य।(लं–3.850 कि0मी0)	2,78,11,000.00	दो करोड़ अठहत्तर लाख ग्यारह हजार रू0 मात्र		
		पोटका प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत HJ Road से बेदेजुरा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–1.800 कि0मी0)	91,26,900.00	एकानवे लाख छब्बीस हजार नौ सौ रू0 मात्र		
		कुल	**11,20,12,500.00**	**ग्यारह करोड़ बीस लाख बारह हजार पाँच सौ रू0 मात्र**		

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– **03.01.2024**।
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:– **11.01.2024** अपराहन 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– **13.01.2024** अपराह्न 11.00 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, ब्लॉक–करनडीह, थाना–परसुडीह, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन–831002।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0657–2298902।
8. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

PR 314748 (Rural Development) 23-24 (D)

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-2 to E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/63/2023 Dated : 24-08-2023

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Between Chainage 171.640 & Chainage 142.920 (28.720Km) including Electrical and Signal & Telecommunication works between Bharamasagara (incl) and Chitradurga (excl.) Stations in Tumakuru - Chitradurga - Davangere New Line Project. **(Tender Ref. No. TK-DVG-EPC-02)**	Rs. 380,13,75,567/-

Bid Due Date	
Existing	**Revised**
30-01-2024 (15:00 Hrs)	**01-04-2024 (15:00 Hrs)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/596/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client Mrs.SHANTHA KUMARI W/o.Mr.Anand & D/o.Mr.Gladen Babu is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **KASTURI RANGA, K.LOKESH, K.R.SHYLESH, K.R.SUCHITRA AND R.PARIJATHA,** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections / claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Immovable property bearing No.19/5, PID No.85-5-19/5, Measuring 30.286378 Sq.Mtrs, measuring East by- Road, West by- Ramaiah Property, North by-P.Rangappa's Property and South by-Webster Road and Immovable property bearing No.19/6, PID No.85-5-19/6, Measuring 30.286378 Sq.Mtrs, measuring East by- Road, West by- Ramaiah Property, North by-P.Rangappa's Property and South by-Webster Road Situated at Doddigunta, Webster Road, Bangalore-560005.
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE
BE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN that, my client intend to purchase the property which is fully described in the schedule given hereunder from Mr. M.N. Srihari & Smt. H.A. Manjula, both Residing at # 611, Anand Alpines, Anjanapura, Bangalore.
Any person claiming any right, title or interest over the said property may inform the same to my client in writing within 15 days from today. If objections are not received within that date my client will go ahead with the purchase and no further objection will be valid after that.
SCHEDULE
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of vacant site bearing No. 128, BBMP Katha No. 133/133/128, Defence Layout, Chikkabettahalli, in BBMP Ward No. 9 (Vidyaranyapura), carved out of Sy.No. 6 of Chikkabettahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk in the layout formed by M/s. Defence / Government Officials Sites Owner's Association (Regd) and measuring East to West: 81 Feet and North to South : 50 Feet in all about measuring 4050 Sq.ft along with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and is bounded on :
East by : Site No. 157 and 158, West by : Road, North by : Site No. 129, South by : Site No. 127.
R. SATISH, Advocates
17, V.S. Road, Kumara Park West,
Bangalore-560 020. Ph: 9448081868
Bangalore, Date : 29.12.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase 1937.45 Sq.ft. of undivided share in the Schedule property from its owners: **(1) SRI.SHIVA PRASAD** S/o Late G.Shivanna, his wife **(2) SMT.SUDHA SHIVA PRASAD** and their children namely, **(3) SMT.MAMATHA.S, (4) SMT.SANGEETHA SUNIL & (5) SMT.GEETHA.S,** all are residing at the Schedule property.
If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the supporting legal documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No.10, PID No.28-97-10, measuring East to West 61'9" and North to South 62'6" in all measuring 3874.9 Sq.ft., together with a building thereon, situated at 2nd Cross, Kempegowda Road Extension, Bangalore-560009 and bounded on:
East by : Road
West by : Private Property
North by : Silk Merchants Association Building
South by : Kabadi Eswarsa's property
Sd/- Goutam Chand .S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-1 to E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/77/2023 Dated : 13-10-2023

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Track Between Jagadal (Excl.) and Suttatti (Excl.) for a length of 28.5 Km under Bagalkot - Kudachi New Line Project (142 Km) Including Signal & Telecommunication & Electrical Works. **(Tender Ref. No. BGK-KUD-EPC-02)**	Rs. 368,22,03,402/-

Bid Due Date	
Existing	**Revised**
11-01-2024 (15:00 Hrs)	**11-03-2024 (15:00 Hrs)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/595/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **MRS.KIRUBANITHI A** W/o. Mr.Thangaraj P, **MRS.T.ANGEL PRASSILA** W/o.Mr.N.John Frederick and **MRS.T. FANCY AGNUS SOFIYA** D/o. Mr.Thangaraj are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **MR.SOMASHEKAR K.R** S/o. Mr. Patel Ramaiah ; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Vacant Site No.19, of converted Sy. No.7/1, converted for residential purpose vide Official Memorandum bearing No. ALN(K.R.P.H.2)SR:50/2021-22, Order No.304060 dated 27.04.2022, issued by Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, Situated at Kothanur Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 30 Feet, North to South 50 Feet, totally Measuring 1500 Square Feet, (BBMP) Ward No.25, and bounded on the:
East by : Private Property; West by: Site No.20; North by: Site No.46; South by: 25 Feet Road.
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT ROAD DIVISION, KHUNTI

e-Procurement Notice
(2ND CALL)
VERY SHORT TENDER
E_Tender Reference No. RCD/KHUNTI/1160
Date :- 28/12/2023

1.	Name of the work	**Construction of H.L. Bridge over Chata River in 41st KM of Sisai – Lapung –Dorma Road (MDR-30)**
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	**Rs. 10,45,31,379.00 Rs. Ten Crore Forty Five Lakh Thirty One Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Nine Only.**
3.	Bid Security (Rs.)	**Rs. 10,46,000.00 Rs. Ten Lakh Forty Six Thousand Only.**
4.	Cost of Document (Rs.)	**Rs. 10,000.00 Rs. Ten Thousand Only.**
5.	Time of Completion	**24 Months**
6.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids	**08.01.2024 up to 12:00 Noon**
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	**29.12.2023 at 10:30 A.M.**
8.	Name & Address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Road Division, Khunti
9.	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	06528-221215
10.	Helpline number of e-Procurement Cell	0651-2401010

Note :- Estimated cost of tender can be increased or decreased
Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
PR.NO.314592 Road(23-24):D
Executive Engineer,
R.C.D., Road Division, Khunti

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that myself **Mr.C.Venkatesh S/o.K.Chandran** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mrs.Nalini Jagadeesh Ankalgi W/o.R.Jagadeesh** ; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Residentially Converted Vacant Site bearing No. 78, PID No.150200201300920349, Katha No.85/78, carved out of Converted Survey Nos. 23 & 24, converted vide Official Memorandum Nos. ALN(NA)(JALA)SR:117/11-12, dated:03-04-2012, ALN (NA)(JALA)SR:118/ 11-12, dated:03-04-2012, & ALN(NA)(JALA) SR: 116/11-12,dated:03-04-2012, in a residential Layout known as "PAPANAHALLY LAYOUT PHASE-I" approved by BIAAPA vide L.P. No. BIAAPA/TP/01/LAO/03/2012-13, dated 30-04-2012, situated at Papanahally Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North (Apara) Taluk, Measuring East to West 12.00 Meter and North to South 9.00 Meter, in all measuring 108 Square Meters, and bounded on: East : 9 Meter Wide Road, West : Site No.87, North : Site No.79, South : Site No.77
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

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PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS

thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

IIFL Home Finance charts out robust growth plan

IIFL Home Finance Ltd., one the leading digital-first home finance companies, has set its sights on achieving ₹9,500 crore Assets Under Management (AUM) target in the southern region for the current financial year.

The company's robust growth strategy includes focusing on various housing schemes, such as affordable housing projects and beneficiary-led construction schemes.

With an overall portfolio aimed at providing affordable homes to the masses, IIFL Home Finance Ltd. has catered to the housing needs of thousands of individuals and families.

As of November 30, about ₹2,170 crore has been disbursed in Karnataka, with approximately ₹1,565 crore specifically directed towards the affordable housing sector. The company has a network of over 30 branches in Karnataka.

Mr. Kranth Namala, Zonal Sales Head, South, IIFL Home Finance Ltd., said, "IIFL Home Finance Ltd. is committed to enabling every person and family to fulfil their ambition of owning a house by facilitating sustainable homeownership.

"Our goal is to strengthen our presence in Karnataka. We want to close this fiscal year with an AUM of ₹9,500 crore."

Making the most of green

Cost savings and increased property value apart, the true power of sustainable practices lies in their ability to foster a harmonious relationship between humans and the environment

ENVIRONMENT

In the midst of mounting concerns surrounding climate change and environmental degradation, the real estate industry plays a crucial role in creating a sustainable future. Green building practices offer a myriad benefits that extend beyond conventional profit margins.

By embracing these practices, we have the power to construct a built environment that not only mitigates our ecological impact but also enriches our lives and fosters thriving communities.

Environment-friendly techniques encompass designing, constructing, and operating buildings in ways that maximise resource efficiency, minimise environmental impact, and prioritise the well-being of its occupants. They rely on a wide range of strategies, including energy-efficient design, utilisation of renewable materials, efficient waste management, water conservation, and incorporation of eco-friendly elements into urban spaces.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Design techniques

Reducing energy consumption holds a pivotal role in curbing global warming. A United Nations report states that the construction and operation of buildings accounted for a staggering 37% of global energy-related CO2 emissions in 2020, in spite of the global lockdown and closures due to the pandemic. By adopting green building practices, we can significantly curtail energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, paving the way for a sustainable future. Incorporating innovative design techniques and renewable energy sources enables buildings to reduce their carbon footprint.

Waste reduction

Addressing the plastic waste crisis has become an important aspect of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Green building practices not only demonstrate environmental responsibility but also represent a vital step towards reducing plastic pollution.

A recent report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) outlines the potential to reduce plastic waste by 80% through existing technologies and significant policy changes by 2040. Green building practices allow the real estate sector to actively contribute to these goals by promoting reuse, recycling, and alternative packaging materials while fostering a shift towards a circular economy.

Resource efficiency takes centrestage in green buildings through the integration of water-saving technologies, efficient insulation, and intelligent lighting and heating systems. By minimising wastage and conserving resources, green buildings not only curtail operational costs but also champion responsible resource management, effectively addressing global water and energy scarcity challenges. The concept of building green extends beyond efficiency, emphasising the optimisation of local materials and ecology while simultaneously reducing material requirements.

The writer is Founder and CEO, MAIA Estates.

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THE HINDU
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Paediatric surgeons want every medical college to have an exclusive surgery unit

NATIONAL PAEDIATRIC SURGERY DAY

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

With birth defects and paediatric surgical issues accounting for a significant proportion (as high as 10%) of infant deaths, paediatric surgeons have proposed that a Paediatric Surgery unit be made available in all medical colleges.

December 29 is observed as National Paediatric Surgery Day. This year's theme for Paediatric Surgery Day emphasises the critical need for paediatric surgeons in all districts.

In the government sector in Karnataka, paediatric surgery units are available only in the State-run medical colleges in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Vijaynagar in Ballari and Hubballi. Although a lot of private medical colleges have such units, affordability is an issue for many.

> The number of undergraduates choosing to specialise in Paediatric Surgery is very low. This is mainly because many hospitals do not have Paediatric Surgery units. As a result, parents consult adult surgeons for paediatric anomalies, but children are not mini-adults.
>
> **ANAND ALLADI**
> Professor and Head of the Department of Paediatric Surgery at BMCRI

Lack of recognition

Anand Alladi, Professor and Head of the Department of Paediatric Surgery at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), told *The Hindu* that paediatric surgery as a super speciality is yet to be recognised.

"The number of undergraduates choosing to specialise in Paediatric Surgery is very low. This is mainly because many hospitals do not have Paediatric Surgery units. As a result, parents consult adult surgeons for paediatric anomalies, but children are not mini-adults," Dr. Alladi said.

Pointing out that BMCRI and Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health together conduct around 5,000 paediatric surgeries a year, the doctor said neonatal congenital anomalies, often referred to as birth defects, have a variety of causes ranging from pregnancy or birth complications to genetic malformations to viral infections in utero. In many cases, however, a congenital anomaly may have no known cause.

"If picked up early and treated appropriately, the potential for recovery in such children is very good," he said.

"The National Medical Commission (NMC) has allotted 10% of beds in each medical college for Paediatric Surgery, but not all colleges have paediatric surgeons. Children constitute 40% of the population, and we request the NMC to increase the Paediatric Surgery bed allotment and also ensure that surgery unit is made available for the children at peripheral areas," he said.

Insurance issues

According to the Indian Association of Paediatric Surgeons (IAPS), another pressing concern is the financial support and insurance coverage for birth defects, particularly external defects which are currently excluded by insurance companies.

"This is in contrast to developed countries where there is no such rider. Even within India, State and central insurance schemes (Ayushman Bharat) do cover birth defects. However, the packages are low and do not cover the entire surgery cost in private empanelled hospitals," Dr Alladi said. In a statement, IAPS president Ramesh Babu said that an inclusive insurance policy addressing all birth defects is imperative.

For prevention

Prevention of birth defects is another goal of IAPS. "A significant causative factor of many birth defects, including a few crippling ones like spine defect, is the deficiency of Folic Acid Vitamin in the expecting mother. By the time pregnancy is diagnosed and folic acid supplementation started by health centres, most of the organs of the baby are already formed, and it becomes too late to prevent defects," the doctor said.

"If folic acid supplements are given before conception, the levels needed to prevent birth defects become significant. This needs a prompt reform of fortification of certain food items. Tea with folic acid fortification is emerging as a cost-effective and game-changing strategy to prevent birth defects. We strongly recommend the government to study the feasibility of this preventive measure," he added.

Cash-strapped BBMP wants to wrest power to approve building plan for industries from KIADB

Stakeholders in the industry argue that this move could take a toll on industrial development in Bengaluru

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has sent a proposal to the Urban Development Department (UDD) seeking the power to grant building plan approvals for the industrial sector. Currently, these plans are approved by the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB).

According to sources in the Town Planning Department, the civic body sees a huge potential in this. The argument in the proposal is that the BBMP is losing its due share of revenue to KIADB.

An official in the department said, "The proposal is being analysed by the UDD, and we hope the government will be convinced. This has now become a matter of discussion between the Urban Development Ministry and Ministry for Large and Medium Industries."

According to sources in the Town Planning Department, the civic body sees huge potential in the process of approving building plan for industries. The argument in the proposal is that the BBMP is losing its due share of revenue to KIADB. FILE PHOTO

A source in the BBMP said Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who is looking to boost BBMP revenue, is impressed by this proposal, and has directed officials to pursue it with the government. A source privy to this development said Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil is not keen on the proposal, as KIADB is currently the sole authority to give clearances for building plans for industries. Mr. Patil told *The Hindu*, "No department had communicated with me on this issue officially. I can comment only after this proposal is communicated through official channels."

Stakeholders worried

Stakeholders in the industry argue that this move could take a toll on industrial development in Bengaluru. KIADB grants plan approval within weeks of submission of details under the ease of doing business policy.

In the BBMP, getting approval is a laborious task. "Usually, it takes at least six months to get approval for building plans in the BBMP. And this task comes with its own set of problems," said an expert. He argued that such delays might result in flight of capital to other cities, like Hyderabad in Telangana.

Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, president of Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI), said the trade body will oppose this move and he will be writing a letter to Mr. Patil.

"In the designated industrial areas, BBMP or any local authorities do not provide any facility. Hence, BBMP has no right to intervene," he argued.

Five skeletons found in locked-up house in Chitradurga

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

As many as five skeletons, suspected to be of members of a family, were found in a house near Challakere Gate in Chitradurga on Friday. The house has remained locked since 2019.

Based on the statements of the relatives of the family members residing in the house, it is learned that the deceased are Jagannath Reddy, 70, his wife Premavathi, their children Triveni, Krishna Reddy and Narendra Reddy. One skeleton was found in a room, while the remaining four were found in another room. Jagannath Reddy, a retired Executive Engineer in the Public Works Department, is a native of Dodda Siddavanahalli in Chitradurga taluk.

The incident came to light on Thursday night, when the neighbours complained to the police of a foul smell from the house. The Chitradurga Extension police reached the house, and during the search, they found skeletons.

A team of forensic experts from Davangere visited the house late in the night. Divya V.Gopinath, Director of the State Forensic Science Laboratory, and her team visited the spot on Friday. The skeletons have been shifted for further examination.

The Chitradurga Extension police have taken up the investigation after registering an unnatural death report based on a complaint from a relative of the family

The calendar hanging on one of the walls in the house showed January, 2019. Since then, the calendar has not been replaced, and electricity bills remain unpaid.

Dharmendra Kumar Meena, Chitradurga Superintendent of Police, told the media that initially three skeletons were found. However, later, two more were found following a thorough check by the FSL team. "The family members hardly contacted their friends and relatives. The neighbours never interacted with them. Only after further inquiry can we ascertain the identity of the dead," he said. Eastern Range IGP K. Thiyagarajan also visited the spot.

Chitradurga Extension Police have taken up the investigation after registering an unnatural death report based on a complaint from Pavan Kumar N.R., a relative of the family. Mr. Pavan, in his statement, said that for the last 10 to 12 years, none of the relatives had been in touch with the family.

"They never visited our homes, nor did we meet them," he said in the complaint.

KSRTC Flybus starts operations from KIA Terminal 2

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Flybus services of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), which were earlier operating from Terminal 1 of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), commenced operations from Terminal 2 on Friday. It was flagged off by Minister for Transport and Muzrai Department Ramalinga Reddy.

The buses will pick up and drop passengers from Terminal 1 as well. The KSRTC first started operation with just one Flybus in 2013, and now the number has gone up to 13.

The passengers arriving at Terminal 2 can avail the services to travel to Mysuru, Madikeri, and Kundapura. The Fly bus service has ultra-modern interiors, reclining hi-tech passenger seats, imported floor carpeting, and high-mounted 2 LCD TVs of 26" & 17", besides a bio-toilet restroom facility and GPS connectivity.

Minister of Food and Civil Supplies K.H. Muniyappa launching the BMTC Vayu Vajra bus service from the new Multimodal Transport Hub at Terminal 2 at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On the other hand, BMTC has also started services from Terminal 2. At present, BMTC is operating 137 Vayu Vajra on 18 routes every day from different parts of the city and 944 single trips covering 47,907 km. On average, 14,000 passengers are availing of this service.

Metro train service extended on NYE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has announced that it will run Namma Metro train services on Green and Purple lines until 1.30 a.m. on New Year's Eve.

According to a BMRCL release, the last train from all terminal stations will leave at 1.30 a.m. on January 1, 2024.

Train services during the extended period will be available at a frequency of 15 minutes.

The last train from Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station, Majestic, to all four directions will be at 2.15 a.m. on January 1.

In view of the safety and security of the public, Mahatma Gandhi Road Metro station will be closed at 11 p.m. on December 31 for public entry and exit, and no metro trains will stop at M.G. Road metro station. However, the trains will stop at adjacent stations such as Trinity and Cubbon Park stations as usual.

Commuters wanting to travel from Trinity / Cubbon Park metro stations after 11 p.m. may purchase their paper ticket priced at ₹50 in advance from 8 p.m. from any metro station.

It is valid for only entry at Trinity and Cubbon Park metro stations after 11 p.m. on December 31, the release stated.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mai l : ceworldbankprojects@gmailcom

2nd corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE-WBP (0) - 40 / 2023 - 24

Following changes are made to the Invitation for the work "Construction of H. L. Bridge over river Mahanadi at Brahmankanda- Sahukheta road under Salepur Block in the District of Cuttack under State Plan for the year 2023-24 (Identified project across National Waterways, IWAI)" vide Bid Identification No. CE-WBP (0) - 40 / 2023 - 24.

* The Last date of submission of tender is extended upto **5.00 PM of dt.16.01.2024**.
* Bids received on line shall be opened at **3.00 P.M of 17.01.2024**.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha
B-1509 OIPR-34003/11/0079/2324

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer
Upper Kolab Project, At/Po: Bariniput
Dist: Koraput, ODISHA-764006
email id: aceukp2022@gmail.com, Phone/FAX:06854-242035
e- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. ACE-UKP-02/2023-24

1 . Name of work	: Construction of Museum-cum-Park Complex at Upper KolabDam.
2. Approx. Estimated Cost	: Rs.151.86 Lac
3. Eligibility of the bidders	: 'A' or 'B' class contractors (Odisha P. W. D.) or equivalent class of other licensing authority
4. Period of completion	: 04 (Four) calendar months
5. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: 04/01/2024 (10:00 A.M.) to 19/01/2024 (05:00 P.M.)
6. Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	: 19/01/2024 (05:00P.M.)
7. Date of opening of technical bid on-line	: 20/01/2024 (11:30 A.M.)
8. Name & address of the O.I.T.	: Additional Chief Engineer, Upper Kolab Project, At/Po: Bariniput, District: Koraput PIN:764006

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://tendersodisha.gov.in.
Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation, if any, required will be published in Govt. website only.
Additional Chief Engineer
Upper Kolab Project, Bariniput
A-1104 OIPR-32197/11/0003/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA - JAJPUR
AT/PO-NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK - 753004, TEL No. 0671-2444488, Email-serw_kpd@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online RCK-45/23 **Letter No:- 4948** **Date :- 27.12.23**

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. **Name of the work** : Building Works in the district of Kendrapara & Jajpur for the year 2023-24.
2. **Class of Contractor** : As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure.
3. **Time of Completion** : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure.
4. **Detail Projects** : As per Annexure attached
5. **Other details.**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender Online RCK- 45/23	02.01.2024 at 11.30 A.M	16.01.2024 to 5.00 P.M	16.01.2024 upto 2.00 P.M	17.01.2024 at 11.30 A.M	To be intimated later

(1) Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur
0-2027 OIPR-25129/11/0056/2324

Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur
Email Id-serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

Bid Identification No. Road tender Online RWCSBP-50/2023-24 **No: 3984** **Date: 27.12.23**

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for completion of incomplete Road & Bridges scheme for the year 2020-21

1. Name of work	: Completion of incomplete Road & Bridges scheme for the year 2020-21
2. No of works	: 01 No details as per DTCN.
3. Estimated cost	: Approximately Rs. 274.12 lakhs.
4. Class of Contractor	: 'B' & "A"
5. Cost of tender paper and mode of deposit	: Rs.10,000/- per set. (to be deposited on-line) in favour of concerned Executive Engineer.
6. Mode of submission of tender	: Tender should be submitted only on line in website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)
7. EMD and mode of deposit	: **1% of estimated cost of the work to be remitted online as mentioned in DTCN**.

8 Summary of key dates are provided below

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur	Road Tender Online RWCSBP-50/2023-24	03.01.2024 From 11.00 A.M	17.01.2024 upto 5.00 P.M	16.01.2024 upto 5.00 P.M	18.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M	will be intimated later

* Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)
* Subsequent modification/ corrigendum/Addendum if required shall appear in website only.
* The amount put to bid is exclusive of GST.
* Bidder should inspect the road before bidding and quote his rate accordingly.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur
0-2024 OIPR-25091/11/0073/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
MAHANADI, BRAHMANI & BAITARANI SYSTEM, CHANDIKHOLE
E-mai ID: cembbschandikhole@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-Procurement Notice No:-CE&BM, MBBS 08 OF 2023-24
Bid Identification No: CE&BM, MBBS KID 01 OF 2023-24

The Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi, Brahmani & Baitarani System, Chandikhole on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on-line percentage rate tender through e-procurement in double cover system.

Table- 1: Details of Critical Dates, details of work, Bid Security

Pkg. No	Name of Works	Approx. Tender Cost	Class of Contractor	Bid Security EMD/ (online) (in INR)	Cost of tender document (on line)- (in INR)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	**Construction of 2 Nos of new Spur & Renovation of 5 Nos of old Spur including Launching Apron from RD.0.330Km to 1.175Km on Dasamouzi Gherry Left Wing on River Nuna near Village Karamkul in Kendrapara District**	**Rs 955.65 Lakh** (Excluding G.S.T)	**A & Special** Class	**Rs. 9,55,700/-**	**Rs.10,000/-**	**12 (Twelve)** Calendar Months

Table- 2: e-Procurement Details

Procurement Officer	Bid Idetification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Date of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid	Place of opening
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi, Brahmani & Baitarani system Chandikhole	CE& BM, MBBS KID 01 OF 2023-24	DT 06.01.2024 at 10.00 hours	DT 23.01.2024 upto 17.00 hours	DT 06.01.2024 to 20.01.2024 at Office during office hours.	DT 24.01.2024 at 11.00 Hours	To be intimated after evaluation of Technical Bid	Office of Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Brahmani & Baitarani System, Chandikhole

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Web site **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
* Other Terms & conditions can be seen from the Government website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
* The Corrigendum/ cancellation of Tender, If any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
MBBS, Chandikhole
A-1105 OIPR-32415/11/0011/2324

Govt. announces salary hike for guest lecturers

Now, they are getting remuneration from a minimum ₹26,000 to ₹32,000 per month and with the revision, they will get ₹31,000 to ₹37,000 per month, effective from January 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of a protest rally by guest lecturers in Bengaluru.

The Karnataka government has decided to revise the remuneration for guest faculty working in various government first-grade colleges, government engineering colleges, and polytechnics across the State by up to ₹5,000 per month and give a lump sum amount of about ₹5 lakh as a retirement benefit if they have served for at least 10 years. Health insurance of ₹5 lakh has also been assured.

Now, guest lecturers are getting remuneration on the basis of their educational qualification and seniority, from a minimum ₹26,000 to ₹32,000 per month. With the revision, they will get ₹31,000 to ₹37,000 per month, effective from January 2024.

Speaking at a press conference after holding a meeting with guest lecturers at Vikas Soudha, Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said guest lecturers have been protesting since this November 23, for the fulfilment of many demands, including their services being made permanent. This has affected academic activities in colleges. The revision will be applicable to all the guest lecturers working under the Collegiate Education Department and Technical Education Department.

On health insurance, he said if the premium of ₹400 per month is paid by the guest lecturers, the government will pay the remaining premium amount. "Including increasing of remuneration, health insurance and retirement benefit for the guest lecturers, a total of ₹ 132 crores will be burden for the government," Dr. Sudhakar said.

5% weightage

To help them in future government recruitments, he added that 5% weightage would be given to guest lecturers based on seniority who have served for about 10 years, while recruiting assistant professors in the Collegiate Education Department and the Technical Education Department.

The government also decided to provide one day's leave per month to the guest lecturers with 15 hours per week.

Earlier, the BJP government had said they could not retain the services of guest lecturers as per a report by an expert committee.

"There are many legal complications. But our government has honestly fulfilled their other fair demands. So, the guest lecturers should give up their strike and report to work from January 1. If it fails, the government will take strict action. Also, around 30,000 applied for the post of guest lecturer this year, and we have around 10,000 second list of guest lecturers."

He warned that if the guest lecturers continued their strike, the government would definitely appoint the guest lecturers, who are on the second list of selection.

Protest to continue

Despite the hike, the guest faculties are not happy with the government's decision. The Government First Grade Colleges Guest Lecturers' Association has decided to continue the protest.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, association president Hanumanthagowda R. Kalmani said their major demand is job security, which has not been met. "We will hold padayatra from Siddaganga Mutt to Bengaluru on January 1, 2024," he said.

'Reservation of private lands for public purposes in master plans will lapse if not acquired within five-year period'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The court has declared that reservation of Jayamahal Palace Hotel land for public purposes made in 2007 lapsed in 2012. FILE PHOTO

The High Court of Karnataka has declared that reservation of any private property for the use of parks, playgrounds and other recreation uses, public open spaces, etc., in the revised master plan notified under the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act, 1961, would lapse after a period of five years from the date of notification if not acquired as per the land acquisition laws within that period.

The court also made it clear that the period of five years for acquiring the reserved private land is binding on the authorities irrespective of when the such land would be made use for the notified public purposes.

"The reservation made in terms of Section (1)(c) of the KTCP Act for parks, playgrounds and other recreation uses, public open spaces, public open buildings and institutions, other than areas reserved for new street developments under Section 12(1)(b), would lapse after a period of five years in terms of Section 69(2) of the Act, if the same were not acquired within the said period by agreement or by initiating proceedings under the Right To Fair Compensation And Transparency In Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013," the court observed.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while allowing a petition filed in 2015 by 82-year-old Maharani Kumud Kumari and 56-year-old Maharaj Himanshusinhji, the wife and the son of late Jyotendrasinhji Vikramsinhji, who are the owners of Jayamahal Palace Hotel in Bengaluru. The petitioners had questioned about legality of notifying their land as green belt zone in the master plan for utilising it for various public purposes.

An obligation imposed on the planning authority to acquire the land designated in the master plan for public purpose under the land acquisition law of 2013 within a period of five years to bring about a balance as the owners of private land would not be able to make use of the properties other than notified purposes during the subsistence of reservation of their land in the master plan, the Court said.

The court also said that when no acquisition is made within a period of five years of such reservation, then the designation would lapse, thereby lifting the restriction on the owner subject to compliance with Section 69 (3) of the Act.

Automatic restoration

On the lapse of reservation, the court said, the land would not be automatically restored to the status that existed prior to the reservation made in the master plan, but the owner of private lands would have to submit the application to the authorities under Section 69(3) of the Act to make use of the land on the basis of surrounding developments.

Further, the court said the authorities would have to consider such an application after inviting objections from the public and grant permission on the basis of developments in the surroundings.

Based on surroundings

As an example, the court said that if the surrounding is a residential area, then the land cannot be permitted to be used for commercial purposes and if the surrounding is a commercial area, then no permission for residential purposes can be granted. Such permission is different from the change of land use sought under Section 14A of the Act, the court clarified.

In the case of the petitioners, the court said that the reservation of Jayamahal Palance Hotel land, notified on June 25, 2007, has lapsed on the midnight of June 24, 2012, and the petitioners can make application for use of their land for other purposes based on the surroundings.

Govt. of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Vijayapur
Tel.No:08352-277816, Fax.No:08352-277817,
E-Mail:zpebjp9@yahoo.co.in
NO:EE/PRED/VJP/E-Proc/TND/2023-24/1959 Dated:27.12.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)

Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Vijayapura has invited e-tender for the works under the 8443 Deposit Contribution (Vivek PU College Grant) scheme for the year 2022-23 **Rs. 100.20 Lakhs** package works **vide Tender Publication No. 1959 Date 27.12.2023.** For more information about the tender, the information can be collected at the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or visit the office of the said Division during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Vijayapura
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/357/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಪಿಎ/2023–24

Govt. of Karnataka
Department of AYUSH
Dhanvanthri Road, Bangalore-560009, T.No:080-22876553,
Fax: 080-22340139, Email : directorayush.eproc@gmail.com
No: AYUSH/51/Procurement/2023-24 Dt: 29-12-2023

Tender Notification
(Through e-procurement portal only)

The e-tender in Two Document Systems invited from the Tender inviting Authority and Accounts Officer, Department of AYUSH, Bangalore for the Supply of Medical Equipments and Accessories to Government Ayurveda Medical College & Teaching Hospital Shimoga, under National AYUSH Mission as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999-2000 Rules there under. The Tender document will be available from **29-12-2023 at 5:30 p.m.** in the e-procurement portal of Karnataka **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The last day of bid submission is **17-01-2024 upto 5:30 p.m.** For further details may be viewed at above website.

Sd/- Accounts Officer/Chairman
(Tender Inviting Authority) Directorate of Ayush,
Danavantri Road, Bangalore-09
DIPR/CP/RO2766/AAPL/2023-24

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತುಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.
Telephones: 08392 -276250 **e-mail:** dhobellari@gmail.com
No.DHOB/ZPAPAITEMS/01/2023-24. Date 27.12.2023.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಐಸಿಟಿ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳು, ಪಿಠೋಪಕರಣಗಳು & ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಜಿ.ಪಂ.ಅನುದಾನದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ವೈಸ್ ಐಟಂ–ವೈಸ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್‌ಗೆ ಲಭ್ಯ ವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. (ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಪ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 05–01–2024 @ 17.00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.54.17** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು

TENDER INDENT No. DHFWS/2023-24/IND0378.

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ
ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ/657/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಪಿಎ/2023–24

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the General Public that my Clients **Smt. Vasantha Bai** W/o Sri. Tanaji Bandagar, and **Sri. Tanaji Bandagar**, who are residing at No.45, 1st Cross, Venkateshwara Layout, Opp. to ITI Layout, New BEL Road, Bengaluru-560 054, negotiated to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property for a valuable Sale Consideration amount with the Owner **Smt. Agaja A.G** W/o Late Mallikarjuna .H.G, Aadhar Card No:7216 1971 8978 and PAN No.AAMPS1726R and her minor children's and which is jointly owned in name of Late. Mallikarjuna H.G S/o Gopalappa, and Agaja A.G W/o Late Mallikarjuna H.G. Further aforesaid vendor acquired the title, rights and interest over the schedule property through the Absolute sale deed executed dated:12/10/2017 vide Document No:YAN-1-04863-2017-2018, registered at the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Based on the sale deed the vendor got registered name in the katha register maintained by the Singanayakanahalli village Panchayath authority, accordingly the Panchayath authority has assigned the Panchayath Katha No.128/1/19 and 128/1/20. Further my clients vendor represents that, it is their self- acquired property and acquired through their own source and means and savings, and no one is having any manner of title, rights and interest over the property. Any person/society/firm or any other body, having any manner of, title, interest, right/s, subsisting rights and claim/s on the below mentioned Schedule of Property or any part thereof by way of any agreement, contract, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, possession, lien, charge, mortgage exchange or by any such deed/instrument of transfer, easement or otherwise, may submit their objection(s), claim(s) in writing to me at the under mentioned address through Registered Post Acknowledgment Due along with the supporting documentary proof, within **TEN DAYS** (10) from the date of this public notice. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction in terms of law.

:SCHEDULE:

Item No. 1: All that piece and parcel of immovable property being a Residential Site with building bearing No.19, in Singanayakanahalli Village Panchayath Katha No. 128/1/19, Assessment No. 128/1, situated at Singanayakanahalli Village, YelahankaHobli, Bengaluru, North Taluk, measuring East to West: 40'-0" feet, North to South: 70'-0" feet, in all totally measuring 2800 Sq. ft., and bounded on:- **East by:** Road; **West by:** Private Property; **North by:** Site No. 20; **South by:** Site No. 18.

Item No. 2: All that piece and parcel of immovable property being a Residential Vacant Site bearing No. 20, in Singanayakanahalli Village Panchayath Katha No. 128/1/20, Assessment No. 128/1, situated at Singanayakanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru, North Taluk, measuring East to West: 40'-0" feet, North to South: 39+ 36/2 feet, in all totally measuring 1500 Sq. ft., and bounded on: **East by:** Road; **West by:** Private Property; **North by:** Road; **South by:** Site No. 19.

Sd/- BANDAGAR SHIVAJI, Advocate
SNL ASSOCIATES, No. 178, 8th Cross, 1st Main, MSR Nagar,
New BEL Road, Bengaluru-54: Mob: 9448089393

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore,
Chennai - 600 008. Phone: +91-44 2855 4479, 2855 4480
Fax: +91-44 2855 3729 | Website: **https://tidco.com**
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

E-Tender Notice
NOTICE NO. TIDCO / MANPOWER AGENCY /2023-24

Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO), a Government of Tamil Nadu Enterprise is in need of manpower for its one of the projects located in the Kancheepuram District. In this context, TIDCO invites proposals from the eligible Manpower Agencies to provide required manpower as per the terms of Reference, Qualification Criteria and other terms and conditions are stipulated in the Tender Document.

Interested Manpower Agencies can download the tender from the website **https://tidco.com** and **https://tntenders.gov.in** with free of cost.

The Scheduled for bidding process is as follows:-

1. Last date and time for submission of Proposals/ Bids is on or before 22.01.2024 through **https://tntenders.gov.in**
2. Opening of Technical Proposals / Bids is at 3.30 P.M on 23.01.2024 at TIDCO Office.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathy Road,
Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
E- mail: cmd@tidco.com, hr@tidco.com
Website:https://tidco.com
DIPR/6874/Tender/2023

DISTRICT INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL TRAINING (DIET), KAMALAPURA, KALABURAGI DISTRICT
NO:A4/DIET/KMA/TALP/COMP/TENDER/2022-23
DATE: 28/12/2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE

Invitation for Short-Term e-Tender through e-Procurement Short-Term e-Tender is invited for purchase of Machineries and Equipment to K.P.S. Schools and maintenance for 03 years as announced in the Budget for the year 2022-23. E-Tender is invited in two cover system from interested and eligible Company/Manufacturer/ Authorised Sellers. Details are as follows. 1) Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 64,81,000/-.** 2) Date for downloading the Tender Document from the website: 28.12.2023. 3) Last date for submission of Tender Bids: 05.01.2024 up to 5.00 PM. 4) Date of opening Technical Bids: 08.01.2024 at 11.00 AM. 5) Date of opening commercial Bids: 11.01.2024. Phone No. to be contacted for further details: 9448999370 (www.dietkamalapur123@gmail.com) and website address: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy Director (Development)/ Principal,
District Institute of Educational Training (DIET),
Kamalapura, Kalaburagi District.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/623/KSMC&A/2023-24

Department of Horticulture
Directorate of Horticulture, Lalbagh, Horticulture Information Centre, Bangalore-04
Mobile No.: 8553884517

No. DH/DDH/HIC/CW-2/03/2023-24 Dated: 28-12-2023

ABSTRACT OF RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through GoK e-procurement portal, two cover system)

Office of the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Horticulture Information Centre, Lalbagh, Bengaluru invites e-bids for supply of food for the training / meeting / workshop conducted by Horticulture Department from experienced caterers.

Calendar of events: 1) Period for downloading and uploading tender documents: From 30-12-2023 to 12-01-2024 till 3.00 PM. **2)** Pre-bid meeting date and time: 09-01-2024, 11.30 AM **3)** Time and date of opening of technical bids: 16-01-2024, 11.30 AM, **4)** Time and date of opening of financial bids: 17-01-2024, 11.30 AM. **5)** Address of Pre-bid opening and communication: Office of the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Horticulture Information Centre, Lalbagh, Bengaluru-04 Phone No. 8553884517. e-mail: ddhhiclalbagh@gmail.com **6)** Tender Approximate amount: Rs. 35,00,000/- **7)** E.M.D. Amount: Rs. 70,000/-.

Sd/-
Deputy Director of Horticulture
(Horticulture Information Centre)
DIPR/CP/2760/GREENFMC/2023-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer
(East-Lakes) Room No.309, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building,
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Head office, N.R .Square, Bengaluru-560 002
Tender No:EE/Lakes (East)/TN-04/2023-24 Date:29-12-2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover Tender Notification) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

(1) The Executive Engineer (East-Lakes) BBMP, on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), request for proposals for appointing Consultant to provide services for Preparation of Detail Project Report for Works mentioned in the table below. **(2)** The detailed Objectives and the Scope of the Assignment shall be as per Request for Proposal (RFP) Document & it may be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from **01/01/2024** onwards. Interested Consultants who wish to participate shall remit online Transaction Fee for the RFP Document after registering in the KPPPortal. The Transaction Fee is non refundable. **(3)** Bids must be submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on **16/01/2024** before **16.00** hours.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD in Rs.
1	Preparation of Detail Project Report For the works of "Balance and other improvement works at Kacharakanahalli Lake and Enhancing storage capacity (desilting) and other works at Ulsoor lake" Period of Completion : **2 Months**	**1300.00**	**32500.00**

(1) Pre bid meeting : **08.01.2024** at **15:30** hours.
(2) Opening of Technical Bids : **17.01.2024** at **16:30** hours.
(3) Aspiring Bidders/Consultants who have not registered in Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal should register before participating through the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
(4) For details, registration and e-payment visit GOK website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**or contact kppp Helpdesk.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, (East-Lakes)BBMP

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road,
Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender through Karnataka public procurement portal for the below mentioned work

Last date for submission of bid: 12.01.2024 up to 4.00 PM

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Work Indent & IFT No.	Amount put to tender in Rs.
1	Annual maintenance of KHB Layout at Sattur 2nd & 3rd Phase in Sattur Village, Dharwad Taluk, Dharwad District for the year of 2023-24.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/ 2023-24/OW/work_indent 160 & IFT No. 166/2023-24 Date: 28.12.2023	28,76,883.00

For further information, contact below mentioned office address **Executive Engineer,**
Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru,
Telephone No. 080-22273511/080-22100077, website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/2784/AKAR/2023-24

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES DHARWAD
Estate Office, Krishinagar, Dharwad-580 005 (Karnataka)
Email.id : eo@uasd.in spo@uasd.in

No. Ex.O /EO/Tender-eproc. 07/ Call-2/2023-24 Date: 28.12.2023

"INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST"(2nd Call)
(Through E- Procurement Portal)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad is inviting **Expression of Interest** from the authorized registered agencies through e-Procurement portal for supply, Installation and maintenance of **C.C.T.V surveillance, Boom Barrier and Biometric with face reader for the period of One year and Annual Maintenance of existing surveillance system.** The agencies are requested to participate in Tender through e-Procurement portal **online only.** The website address for necessary details is http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **(Goods Category).** For details of registration please contact ph. No: 080-22230960 / 080-22234115.

SHEDULE OF EVENTS

Last date and time for tender queries / clarification	:	01.01.2024 (Monday) till 4.00 PM
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting (In the Office of E.O.)	:	02.01.2024 (Tuesday) at 11.30 AM
Last date & time for receipt of Tender	:	04.01.2024 (Thursday) till 5.00 PM
Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid	:	05.01.2024 (Friday) at 5.10 PM

Tenderers need to register with e-procurement portal of Govt of Karnataka B'lore, to participate in the tender. For more details please contact 0836-2214332 during office hours. Bidders are requested to get updated with the corrigendum/addendum (if any) issued online at the following link in the entire tender process. http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- ESTATE OFFICER
UAS, Dharwad
DIPR/DWD/638/2023-24/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

Plans afoot to replace horses with houses at Kunigal Stud Farm

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The fate of the nearly 250-year-old Kunigal Stud Farm, one of the top stud farms in the country today, is hanging in the balance.

A global tender to manage the 421.32 acre farm, started during the reign of 18th century Mysuru ruler Tipu Sultan, stands cancelled after the tendering process was completed. Meanwhile, the process to have an integrated township in its place has been initiated.

Sources in the Urban Development Department (UDD) confirmed the proposal for a township based on "local demand", and said that a pre-feasibility survey is being commissioned.

"It is under study and discussions are on. After a spot inspection and assessment by technical experts on the site suitability and the feasibility of the project, a decision will be taken," UDD sources said, adding that this is "part of plans to decongest Bengaluru."

Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh confirmed cancellation of the tender "since the amount was low", but said that no decision has been taken on re-tendering when asked if such a move was being contemplated.

Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh and Mr. Venkatesh are said to have held discussions on the issue during the recently concluded Belagavi winter session of the legislature. Meanwhile, the news of the proposal has triggered protests locally.

After lease

The development follows the expiry of the 30-year-old lease of the farm to United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd. this September 30.

To identify a new individual/ company that is registered with Pune-based Stud Book Authority of India to manage the farm, the Animal Husbandry Department had called a global tender this January 6.

Currently, the Kunigal Stud Farm is the only commercial horse breeding centre in Karnataka, which once had 18 large and medium-sized stud farms. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Villoo Poonawalla of Greenfield Farms emerged the highest bidder with a bid of ₹1.4 crore per annum as against the reserve price of ₹1.16 crore and the Finance Department had approved the tender and the Cabinet approval was awaited.

Currently, the Kunigal Stud Farm is the only commercial horse breeding centre in Karnataka, which once had 18 large and medium-sized stud farms.

Ironically, the tender introduced the Kunigal Stud Farm to the international bidders as a "heritage stud farm", whose operating cost annually would be around ₹6 crore to ₹7 crore. It also said that it is among the top three stud farms in India producing the finest race horses. It currently houses about 200 animals.

While the highest bidder is learnt to have been intimated that the tender was recalled this December 11, a note from the Animal Husbandry Secretary to the department's Commissioner this November 29 stated that the tender had been cancelled, and asked the EMD amount to be returned.

BTC proposal

The note, a copy of which is with *The Hindu*, said that since a part of the stud farm land needs to be allotted to the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) as an alternative place for racing, and since the overall area would come down, the tender was being cancelled. Incidentally, during an earlier standoff between the government and the BTC, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is learnt to have asked the club to shift to Kunigal Stud Farm from Bengaluru, where races are currently taking place.

"The BTC and the township proposals are being processed independently," UDD sources pointed out.

Meanwhile, responding to the "low bid" narrative, Managing Director of United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd. Zeyn Mirza said that it is not fair to say now that the bid amount was low, since the reserve price was fixed by the government.

"Without a firm commitment on the lease, it is difficult to manage a stud farm since a lot of planning is required. There are 120 permanent staff and about 60 contract employees, all employed locally," he said.

Fact sheet

- Kunigal Stud Farm, about 70 km from Bengaluru, is arguably the oldest continuous operational horse breeding establishment in the world, according to United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders
- It was started by Tipu Sultan in 1780 to breed horses for his cavalry to fight the British. Abundant water supply from Kunigal Kere, among the largest lakes in the State, and a favourable weather was the reason for the choice of location
- Spread across 421.32 acres, the stud farm in Tumakuru district has been among the top three in the country since 2005
- The farm is home to thousands of trees, some of them centuries old, supporting several species of birds
- Of the 18 stud farms that thrived in Karnataka earlier, Kunigal Stud Farm is the last remaining horse breeding venture

HDD writes to CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Urging Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to immediately drop the integrated township proposal, the former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has said that the heritage stud farm at Kunigal should be conserved.

In a letter to the Chief Minister on Thursday, he has suggested that the government should set up a horse breeding research centre.

He said that the State government should send a proposal to the Centre to declare the Kunigal Stud Farm as an Indian heritage site.

Mr. Gowda said that there are other government land parcels in Kunigal to set up industries and educational institutions and create employment instead of touching the heritage stud farm. He said people of Kunigal who have had an emotional chord with the stud farm are anxious about the development.

CM tells departments to provide information to Lokayukta to expedite investigation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As probes by the Karnataka Lokayukta into various scams and irregularities have been delayed for various reasons, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday directed authorities and departments concerned to provide detailed information to the anti-corruption body to expedite investigation.

While some departments have ordered probes without handing over official notifications to the Lokayukta, a few have not provided information related to cases.

Any delay in completion of probes would send a wrong message to the public, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

The Chief Minister has convened an official meeting on the matter as the High Court of Karnataka expressed anguish over the withdrawal of an order, passed by the State government in 2023, to take back an inquiry entrusted by the government in 2014 to the Karnataka Lokayukta, into alleged irregularities in implementing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) across the State from 2007 to 2014.

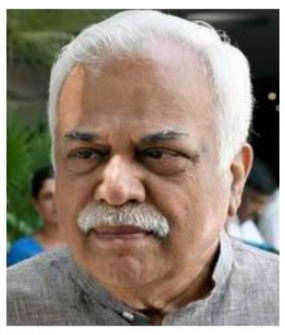
The Lokayukta, it is learnt, has decided to start a probe into past incidents of negligence by ESCOMs in the State but reportedly not much progress has been achieved.

The Lokayukta has also been probing into alleged financial irregularities in Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL).

Senior MLAs Patil, Deshpande, and Rayaraddi get Cabinet-rank posts

Irked over the denial of Cabinet berth, 30 MLAs had written to the Chief Minister expressing dissatisfaction over the functioning of Ministers

B.R. Patil



R.V. Deshpande

Basavaraj Rayaraddi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Friday issued separate notifications on the appointments

Three senior MLAs of the ruling Congress, who had been sulking after denial of Cabinet berths, have now been given Cabinet-rank appointments.

The State government on Friday issued separate notifications naming former Minister R.V. Deshpande as the chairman of the Administrative Reforms Commission and another former Minister and MLA Basavaraj Rayaraddi as economic adviser to the Chief Minister with immediate effect.

Senior MLA B.R. Patil, representing Aland constituency in Kalaburagi district, has been appointed as adviser to the Chief Minister.

Mr. Patil entered the Legislative Assembly along with Mr. Siddaramaiah in 1983. He is the lone MLA to consistently don the Gandhian cap in the current Assembly.

Letter to CM

Irked over the denial of Cabinet berth, a group of 30 MLAs, including Mr. Patil and Mr. Rayaraddi had written to the Chief Minister expressing dissatisfaction over the functioning of Ministers.

Mr. Patil had also opposed the government's proposal on granting licences to set up liquor shops in the State.

Mr. Deshpande, the seniormost and nine-time MLA, administered the oath of office to newly-elected members of the present Assembly. He was elected from Haliyal constituency in Uttara Kannada.

Mr. Rayaraddi served as the Higher Education Minister in the previous Siddaramaiah-led government and was elected from the Yelburga constituency in Koppal district.

Given his experience, it would be interesting to see what sectors Mr. Deshpande would focus on, while undertaking works related to the administrative reforms. Mr. Deshpande also served as the president of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

The previous BJP government appointed T.M Vijay Bhaskar, former Chief Secretary, as the chairman of the administrative reforms commission and he had recommended a series of reforms.

Madhu Bangarappa convicted in cheque dishonour case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Court directs him to repay ₹6.96 crore by January 30, 2024, or undergo simple imprisonment for six months

Madhu Bangarappa

A special court in Bengaluru has convicted Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, who is a director of M/s Akash Audio-Video Pvt. Ltd. (AAVPL), in a cheque dishonour case of 2011.

He has been directed to repay ₹6.96 crore to the complainant company by January 30, 2024. He will have to undergo a simple imprisonment for six months if he fails to make the payment on or before the deadline.

Preeth J., judge of the special court for the trial of cases against present and former MLAs/MPs, passed the order recently on a complaint by M/s Rajesh Exports Ltd. AAVPL took ₹6 crore from the complainant company as an inter-corporate deposit in July 2011 and issued a cheque to return this debt.

However, the cheque was dishonoured for want of sufficient funds in the account.

Following this, the company, after issuing a legal notice, lodged a complaint before a court of magistrate under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act against AAVPL. The case was transferred to the special court in 2022.

Stating that the complainant had proved the case against the accused company and its director, the special court noted that Mr. Bangarappa had also failed to comply with the undertakings, given before the High Court as well as the special court, that he would repay the remaining amount minus ₹50 lakh paid during pendency of the case.

Contractor's bid to end life foiled in Belagavi

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The police foiled a bid by a contractor to end his life in front of the zilla panchayat in Belagavi on Friday. They stepped in when Ashok Chougala, a civil contractor, tried to consume poison and took him away from the spot. Mr. Chougala came along with his family to the zilla panchayat office in the morning.

He said: "Karaguppi Gram Panchayat president Gurusiddappa Payappanavar, Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) Jaya Prakash and technical assistant Vithal Borannanavar collected commission from him in return for clearing my pending bills. But after taking money from me, they are delaying my payment. I have completed the work by taking loans. If my payment is delayed, I have no option but to end my life."

State-level job mela in Bengaluru next month

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has decided to hold job mela in Bengaluru in the last week of January, 2024.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday chaired a meeting with senior Ministers on conducting a State-level job mela and said a ministerial team will be constituted to conduct it.

The team will hold discussions with entrepreneurs and industrialists to participate in a large number in the mela to provide jobs.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
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ಸಂ: ಪವಕಇ.ಇಡಿ/02:ಏಆರ್-08:2023-24/ಭಾಗ2 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.12.2023
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಏಕಲವ್ಯ ಮಾದರಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ 4ನೇ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಮಟ್ಟದ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಕೂಟವನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08-01-2024 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12-01-2024 ರವರೆಗೆ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಸಮಾರಂಭದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ವೇದಿಕೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ಆಸನಗಳ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ದೀಪಾಲಂಕಾರ, ಛಾಯಾಚಿತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ವೀಡಿಯೋ ಚಿತ್ರೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಆಯೋಜನೆಗಾಗಿ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಾಗಿನ ಆಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
DIPR/CP/SPAN/2783(a)/2023-24

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Project South, South Zone Office Complex,
9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block,
Bengaluru-560 011.
No. EEP(S)/E-Procu/19/2023-24 Date: 29.12.2023
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Single Cover System),
(Through GOK KPP Portal)
The Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of work (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1.	Supply of Lab Reagents and Consumables to H. Siddaiah Referral Hospital Hitech Lab in Ward No.118.	10.00	25,000/-
2.	Construction of RO plant at Kumaraswamy Layout, Annamma Devi Park in Ward No.181.	10.00	25,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders is: 29.01.2024 up to 4:00 p.m. (2) Financial Bid opening date : 31.01.2024 at 4:00 p.m. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP.

Bengali writer Mukhopadhyay receives Kuvempu award

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

"My writings are like love letters to people," said Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay, Bengali writer and recipient of the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskara. "Whether it is a short story or a novel, it is token of my love for humanity," Mr. Mukhopadhyay said.

He was speaking after accepting the award at a function organised by the Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust at Kuppali in Tirthahalli taluk on Friday.

Mr. Mukhopadhyay said he was honoured to receive the award instituted in the name of Kuvempu.

"I have read some of Kuvempu's poems which were translated in English. He is one of the great poets of the 20th century. I visited Kavishyla, where the poet meditated. I am elated by the beautiful environment here," he said.

Kuvempu had a special relationship with West Bengal. He took Ramakrishna Paramahamsa as his guru.

"Interestingly, Kuvempu visited Belur Mutt in Kolkata when he was 25 years old. He has written poems in praise of Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and wrote about Vivekananda as well," he said.

Mr. Mukhopadhyay, now 88, recalled his visit to Karnataka in the late 1970s as a journalist to trace the journey of Ram, Lakshman, and Sita during their exile.

He visited Hosapete, Hampi, Bengaluru, Chamundi Hills at Mysuru, and other places. "The people of Karnataka are nice. They are eager to help. I have fond memories of my travels in the State," he said.

Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education and Literacy, who is also Minister in charge of Shivamogga, Tirthahalli MLA Araga Jnanendra, and B.L. Shankar, chairman of the trust, presented the award. It carried ₹5 lakh, a citation, and a memento.

Mr. Bangarappa said he was committed to improving the basic infrastructure facilities at Kuppali.

Mr. Shankar, former minister and president of the trust, said the trust had purchased 30 guntas of land in Bengaluru to build a memorial for Kuvempu.

Mr. Mukhopadhyay is the 11th recipient and the first Bengali writer to receive the award.

Beginner's Muse and Alien Harp, a collection of Kuvempu's English poems, was released on the occasion.

Aharnishi Prakashana of Shivamogga published a translation of Mr. Mukhopadhyay's short stories, titled *Sameepya*, which was also released.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Two new Ministers in Kerala Cabinet; Opposition boycotts swearing-in

Kadannappally Ramachandran and K.B. Ganesh Kumar were administered the oath of office by the Governor whose ties with the Chief Minister has soured; formal government announcement on portfolios of the new appointees is awaited

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kadannappally Ramachandran and K.B. Ganesh Kumar were sworn in as Ministers in the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala on Friday.

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office and secrecy at a specially arranged venue at the Raj Bhavan here in the evening. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and members of his Cabinet, Assembly Speaker A.N. Shamseer and LDF convener E.P. Jayarajan were among those present. Mr. Ganesh Kumar took the oath in the name of God and Mr. Ramachandran solemnly affirmed his faith and allegiance to the Constitution.

Kadannapally Ramachandran (left) and K.B. Ganesh Kumar after being sworn in as Ministers at Raj Bhavan on Friday. S. MAHINSHA

Mr. Ramachandran, who represents the Congress(S), and Mr. Ganesh Kumar of the Kerala Congress(B) replace Ahammad Devarkovil and Antony Raju, respectively, as part of an internal arrangement in the LDF. On completion of two-and-a-half years in the Cabinet, Mr. Devarkovil and Mr. Raju had tendered their resignations recently.

A formal government announcement of the portfolios of the two new Ministers is awaited.

On Friday, Mr. Ramachandran and Mr. Ganesh Kumar had arrived at the Raj Bhavan shortly after 3.30 p.m. The ceremony began at 4 p.m. The Congress-led Opposition UDF boycotted the ceremony.

Strained relations

The strained relations between the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government and Governor Arif Mohammed Khan were evident during the swearing-in ceremony.

Though Mr. Khan and Mr. Vijayan were seated next to each other on the dais, they were not seen greeting or speaking to each other. Mr. Khan appeared to keep a stern face throughout the ceremony.

Once the ceremony ended and the National Anthem was sung, Mr. Khan promptly left the specially arranged venue.

The bitter relations between the government and the Governor had plummeted to a new low after the SFI accused him of attempting to saffronise institutions of higher education in Kerala.

People rush to submit pleas at govt. offices in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

On the second day of Praja Palana programme, a public outreach programme by the Congress government in Telangana, people continued to throng government offices to submit their grievances/requirements in respect of various welfare schemes on Friday, the Collectors informed State Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari.

She convened a teleconference with Collectors to review the progress of Praja Palana. She expressed satisfaction over the response to the initiative of the government and directed the officials to ensure that hiccups that were reported in some parts of the State did not recur.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Dense/very dense fog likely in many/some/isolated parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Odisha. Cold day conditions likely in some parts of Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.8	15.0	Kozhikode	—	35.8	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	28.9	18.0	Kurnool	—	32.8	18.1
Aizawl	—	27.0	13.2	Lucknow	—	15.6	10.2
Allahabad	—	17.3	12.5	Madurai	—	31.4	23.1
Bengaluru	—	26.8	18.9	Mangaluru	—	34.4	22.6
Bhopal	—	27.8	12.6	Mumbai	—	34.3	20.2
Bhubaneswar	—	27.8	17.2	Mysuru	—	31.0	18.0
Chandigarh	—	21.2	8.0	New Delhi	—	19.8	10.7
Chennai	—	29.6	24.1	Patna	—	18.3	13.6
Coimbatore	—	28.0	22.7	Port Blair	—	31.8	26.3
Dehradun	—	24.8	7.1	Puducherry	3.8	30.0	23.2
Gangtok	—	16.4	7.9	Pune	—	31.1	15.2
Goa	—	35.4	21.1	Raipur	—	27.8	15.7
Guwahati	—	28.0	12.6	Ranchi	—	24.2	12.1
Hubballi	—	32.0	17.0	Shillong	—	19.5	11.1
Hyderabad	—	28.3	17.8	Shimla	—	15.2	5.0
Imphal	—	23.7	9.3	Srinagar	—	8.7	-3.3
Jaipur	—	22.0	8.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	36.2	25.6
Kochi	—	34.6	26.8	Tiruchi	0.2	31.1	23.0
Kohima	—	16.6	6.2	Vijayawada	—	29.4	19.6
Kolkata	—	26.8	17.4	Visakhapatnam	—	28.2	21.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	3	10	.26	168	164	
Bengaluru	4	31	101	59	105	
Chennai	.12	.41	.56	59	55	
Delhi	.10	106	.71	449	419	
Hyderabad	.12	.27	.27	121	96	
Kolkata	.15	.81	.24	215	174	
Lucknow	8	.32	.99	278	195	
Mumbai	.13	.82	.47	263	186	
Pune	117	181	111	262	184	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.56	.48	164	125	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 382 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Anticipatory bail sought by Suresh Gopi

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Actor Suresh Gopi has moved the Kerala High Court seeking anticipatory bail in a case booked against him for allegedly using criminal force with the intent to outrage the modesty of a woman.

The police had booked the case against the actor by invoking Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on a complaint from a mediaperson.

As villagers continue stir, fertilizer plant 'gets govt. nod'

Geetha Srimathi
CHENNAI

Three days after an ammonia leak from the gas pipeline of Coromandel International Limited in Ennore, nearly 200 residents of Periyakuppam and Chinnakuppam villages continued to hold a demonstration demanding its permanent closure. However, in a statement, the company said the government committee had given them the nod to resume operations.

In a show of strength, representatives of 32 villages in Ennore, who formed the Ennore People's Protection Group on Thursday and took a resolution to get the unit permanently shut, will participate in a demonstration on Saturday. It has also planned to file an official complaint against the company.

Showing determination: Nearly 200 residents of Periyakuppam and Chinnakuppam have been protesting outside Coromandel International Limited since Wednesday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The protesters said that when they had gathered in front of one of the company gates on Thursday, some of the unit's workers were taken in by police personnel through a back gate. When residents questioned the police, they were told that it was to carry out maintenance works.

However, the protesters said this would hinder the ongoing case. Further, a few residents had been informed that a police case might be filed against them for obstructing the entry of authorities.

Meanwhile, Coromandel International Limited said that the government committee, comprising experts from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, and the Central Leather Research Institute, has approved the emergency response actions carried out and had instructed it to resume operations after conducting necessary inspections and ensuring the safety of the ammonia pipeline and systems.

Congress attending temple event may impact INDIA: CPI(M)

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A meeting of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) State secretariat on Friday reportedly drew a bleak political inference that the Congress's alleged ambivalence about attending the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya would subvert the anti-Hindutva politics that lay at the secular heart of the INDIA bloc.

Speaking to presspersons here, CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan said the Congress's backsliding on secularism, the party's apologetic defence of the Hindutva agenda and the failure to yoke regional and democratic forces to the INDIA bloc opened the door for the BJP to win the Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Govindan also said that the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) risked losing its credibility among influential Muslim social organisations by appearing to condone the Congress's indecisiveness and "political pauperism".

Muslim groups slam

The Samastha Kerala Jemiyyathul Ulama has already slammed the Congress for not shunning the Ayodhya event.

Mr. Govindan claimed that senior Congress leader V.M. Sudheeran's strong opposition to the Congress's soft-Hindutva drift and neo-liberal economic line signalled the impending ideological unravelling of the party's State unit.

IUML not to force Cong. into decision on attending Ram Temple event

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) has described the January 22 inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya as an election ploy of the Bharatiya Janata Party, and cautioned the people against falling prey to it. The party has accused the BJP of using Ram Mandir and people's religious sentiments for its political gains.

A meeting of the IUML national political advisory committee held at chairman Syed Sadikali Shihab Thangal's house at Panakkad, near here, on Friday, however, chose a diplomatic line about Congress leaders attending the temple consecration ceremony at Ayodhya.

Briefing presspersons after the meeting, IUML general secretary P.K. Kunhalikutty said the party would neither comment on the stand adopted by other parties about Ram Mandir nor advise them on what to do. The Congress leadership would take its stand after analysing issues at the national level. "We don't have to comment about the Congress stand."

IUML general secretary P.K. Kunhalikutty and other party leaders interacting online with workers on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

However, he cautioned people against the attempts by the BJP to politicise the Ram Mandir consecration. Mr. Thangal said the IUML valued and respected people's religious faiths. Every place of worship is sacred and his party would hold it with respect. "But the BJP is turning the temple consecration into a political agenda. It is their election ploy. We cannot agree with that," he said.

Mr. Thangal called upon secular parties to realise the BJP agenda and respond to it with prudence. "Secular parties should remain united in politically handling the situation created by the BJP. Religious faiths should not be used for political gains. People's issues like hunger and joblessness should be the focus of political dialogues, and not a sensitive matter like Ram Mandir," he said.

Mr. Thangal presided over the meeting. Several leaders, including president K.M. Kader Mohideen, attended the meeting in online mode.

New design and test facility at aero engine research centre inaugurated

HAL officials showcasing their products to Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane at the inauguration of a new design and test facility, in Bengaluru on Friday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A new design and test facility at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) was inaugurated in Bengaluru on Friday.

The AERDC is currently involved in the design and development of several new engines, including two strategic engines – Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine (HTFE) of 25 kN thrust for powering trainers, UAVs, twin-engine small fighter aircraft or regional jets, and Hindustan Turbo Shaft Engine (HTSE) of 1200 kN thrust for powering light and medium weight helicopters (3.5 to 6.5 tonnes in single or twin engine configuration).

The new state-of-the-art facility houses special machines, advanced setups leveraging computational tools, in-house fabrication facility, and two test beds for testing HTFE-25, and one test bed each for HTSE-1200 and upcoming JV engine for IMRH to be co-developed by Safran of France and HAL.

In addition, the newly developed facility has setups for testing air producer of Jaguar, Gas Turbine Starter Unit (GTSU) - 110 M2 and 127E of LCA, Auxiliary Power Units of IMRH and AMCA, Gas Turbine Electrical Generator (GTEG) - 60 for AN 32 aircraft. Setups to carry out various critical tests for engine components. Line Replaceable Units (LRUs) have also been established within the new facility.

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane who inaugurated the facility, said, "HAL has received applause at the highest levels and the government trusts your capability to deliver and make the country self-reliant. Manufacturing sector is the future of our country. In the coming decades, HAL should focus on mastering technologies for all types of aircraft. Think ahead as the entire paradigm of warfare is changing," The new facility, spanning over 10,000 sq. metres, has been established under a modernisation plan.

Telangana Minister reviews Medigadda barrage fiasco

The Hindu Bureau
JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the Congress's stand on the BRS government's Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project over its "lack of viability, lacunae in design and construction", has been vindicated with the sinking of piers of the Medigadda barrage on October 21, rendering it inoperative at present.

A judicial inquiry will be ordered soon to probe the lapses in the KLIP constructed by the previous BRS regime as announced by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, he said, while reviewing the Medigadda fiasco at the L&T camp office near the barrage in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district on Friday.

Telangana Ministers during an event Jayashnakar-Bhupalapally district on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Speaking to the media at the Medigadda barrage, Mr. Uttam Kumar said that the Pranahita-Chevella project, which was abandoned by the BRS government, will be taken up by re-examining the proposal to construct the barrage at Tummidihatti.

BRS to hold seat-wise preparatory meets from January 3

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

As part of its plans to gear up for the general election, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leadership has decided to hold Lok Sabha constituency-wise preparatory meetings from January 3. The meetings will be held with key leaders of constituencies in the party office here.

Following instructions from party president K. Chandrashekhar Rao, leaders such as working president K.T. Rama Rao, secretary general K. Keshava Rao and senior leaders S. Madhusudana Chary, T. Harish Rao, Kadiam Srihari, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, G. Jagadish Reddy, S. Niranjan Reddy, and V. Prashanth Reddy will attend the meetings and discuss the strategies for the party's success, keeping in mind the changed political scenario in the State.

According to party leaders, the preparatory meetings will be conducted in two phases – first from January 3 to 12 and later, from January 16 to 21 with a three-day Sankranti break between the two phases.

All key leaders from Parliamentary constituencies, including MPs, MLAs, MLCs, ex-MPs, ex-MLAs, ex-MLCs, Zila Parishad chairpersons, former ZP chiefs, Mayors, ex-Mayors, Municipal Chairpersons, ex-Municipal Chairpersons, ex-Chairpersons of State-level Corporations, constituency in-charges, district presidents of the party, other elected representatives and other senior leaders will be part of the meetings.

The party leadership is planning to prepare constituency-wise action plans by taking inputs and opinions from leaders. The focus will be on the Assembly segments in the Lok Sabha constituencies where the party has lost in the recent Assembly poll.

A quiet reprieve

India did well to work its channels with Qatar away from the limelight

The decision of the Qatari court of appeals to reduce the capital punishment handed down in October to eight former Indian naval personnel is a major reprieve for the men and their families, and spells relief for the government that has been pursuing diplomatic channels for leniency. While the detailed judgment is still awaited more than 24 hours after the pronouncement, the upholding of the conviction is a disappointment, and the government and the men's families must now reassess their legal strategy and evidence of their innocence before filing a review petition with Qatar's Court of Cassation, the highest in the system. If all avenues of judicial appeal are exhausted, the government will have three options. First, to continue to press for a review of the conviction with Qatar's ruling Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. If that fails, the men could appeal for clemency and ask for a pardon, that Qatar's rulers have given in the past. A third option would be for the men to serve out their terms in India, once the length of incarceration is clarified, according to a 2015 bilateral Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons. However, this option would require them to accept the conviction cannot be reversed. Through this process, the government must be seen to be pursuing diplomatic and political efforts at the highest level, to convey the extent that the men are a priority for India.

It is significant that the development comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his first public outreach to the Qatari leadership – he met the Emir on the sidelines of COP28, on December 1. Whether such a political outreach, or a high-level mission to Doha, would have been more productive earlier, after the men were first arrested in August 2022, is a moot point now. It is commendable that New Delhi, in contrast to its stand with Canada over its allegations, has chosen not to react to the case with public rhetoric, especially the kind of targeting of Doha seen in some sections of the media, a move that would have been counterproductive. If the case implicating the men is in any way connected to India's intelligence services, then it is important to consider an appropriate review of any operations that could jeopardise Indians overseas. New Delhi has also done well by not allowing the case to become hostage to the growing tensions in the region, over the continuing bombardment of Gaza by Israel. It is hoped that a consistently calibrated position, careful of Qatar's sensitivities, and coupled with a quiet, but determined push, would bring the eight Indians back home safely.

Rift over relief

Criteria for awarding disaster relief must laid down clearly

The recent spat between the Central and Tamil Nadu governments over flood relief after two spells of heavy rainfall in the State has been disheartening for those struggling to rebuild their lives. The duel between Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and State Minister for Youth Welfare Udhayanidhi Stalin over semantics should not have arisen, with the focus and energy devoted to ensuring the return of normality to the southern districts of the State that were overwhelmed on December 17 and 18. Fortunately, better wisdom prevailed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assurance to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin of the Centre's support. Mr. Stalin, had, prior to this, in a meeting with Mr. Modi in New Delhi, sought interim relief funds of ₹7,033 crore and a final relief fund of ₹12,659 crore for the damage caused earlier by Cyclone Michaung to the Chennai area. He also wanted ₹2,000 crore from the PM's National Relief Fund (for the southern districts). The State has sought ₹21,692 crore in total from the Union government.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had earlier carried out an aerial survey over the Chennai area and announced the release of the second instalment of ₹450 crore to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The Centre has also sanctioned ₹500 crore for a flood mitigation project in Chennai. The State is now awaiting a fresh central announcement after visits by inter-ministerial teams to the affected areas. As Ms. Sitharaman pointed out in her press conference, the central government does not declare any natural disaster a national disaster. It is only after an assessment by its team that any natural disaster is classified as a disaster of severe nature – as seen in the 2013 floods in Uttarakhand and 2018 floods in Kerala. In such a case, there is additional financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). So, there is no question of calling the floods in Tamil Nadu as a "national disaster". The central government should ensure clear guidelines when it comes to relief. It should also consider revising its position on excluding long term or permanent restoration works from the ambit of the SDRF/NDRF. There must be an open debate on the suggestion by a parliamentary committee in March 2021 that States hit by severe disaster be permitted to use more than the 25% flexi-fund component of centrally sponsored schemes to carry out post-disaster permanent restoration works. As micro, small and medium enterprises get no relief under the norms of the two funds, the Centre should ensure relief to this sector, which employs nearly 1.4 crore people in the State. Finally, the Centre must consult cyclone-vulnerable Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Gujarat and formulate new norms on disaster management that would leave no room for political controversy.

Tipping back towards chaos, with Trump

Narayan Lakshman

The 2024 United States presidential election is beginning to look increasingly like a referendum on Donald Trump. The 45th President leads not only all other Republican Party candidates by a considerable margin in voter surveys but also appears to be dominating the incumbent, Democrat Joe Biden, including in certain swing states. Yet, there could not be a more polarising figure at the forefront of electoral politics in the country.

On the one hand, Mr. Trump is reaping the hurricane for a variety of alleged improprieties including, most notoriously, his role in egging on a mob that attacked the U.S. Capitol buildings on January 6, 2021. This egregious act, which shook the country's democratic credentials, marked the culmination of months of election result denial by Mr. Trump's campaign, including active efforts to overturn the count in states such as Georgia.

Now, in addition to indictments for election interference in Georgia, and at the federal level for his role in encouraging the attack on the Capitol, the former President faces criminal cases regarding allegations that he unlawfully held classified documents at his residence in Mar-a-Lago, Florida, after demitting office, and that he paid hush money to an adult film star to cover up an affair. Additionally, the Supreme Court of the state of Colorado recently barred his name from the election ballot citing a violation of the Section 3 of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. constitution, known as the "insurrection clause", which disqualifies individuals engaging in insurrection and rebellion from holding public office.

Profiting from trials

One view of these indictments and the personal appearances in court that they will necessitate is that they are likely to hobble Mr. Trump's election campaign plans for 2024. Yet, if the media circus and general public outcry accompanying each episode of Mr. Trump surrendering to the authorities for processing are measures of the impact that these allegations have on his popularity, it is obvious that Mr. Trump has only emerged stronger and is seen more as a victim of political vindictiveness than ever before.

His soaring popularity in the polls of late perhaps reflects, then, the belief among voters that Mr. Trump's agenda is not complete and indeed that Trumpism as a political force is yet in a nascent stage. It is worth parsing Mr. Trump's unique matrix of pronouncements on domestic and foreign policy issues to better understand why voters might throng to his campaign next year.

Domestically, the rise of Trumpism reflects the vociferous reassertion of the white, straight male in American culture – who, under its banner, has taken up a position in opposition to the liberal value of constitutional equality for minorities of all hues – immigrants, African Americans, the LGBTQ community, women, and Muslims, to name a few. What began as a silent cry for help against the ravages of economic globalisation and the migration of manufacturing jobs overseas – the so-called Rust Belt effect that propelled Mr. Trump to victory in 2016 – rapidly and conveniently degenerated into overtly racist dog-whistles by Make America Great Again (MAGA) Republicans across the country and bisecting all class barriers within this cohort.

> With less than a year left for the 2024 U.S. presidential election, America cannot ignore the standing of Donald Trump, its 45th President, and its most polarising figure in its electoral politics

Rewriting institutional rules, strategic biases

If nativist populism was the wave that the Trump campaign rode into the Oval Office, they wasted little time in cementing their political gains by insidious institutional reforms including, most notably, setting the stage for further dismantling the liberal governance consensus by tipping the U.S. Supreme Court 9-3 in favour of unapologetic conservatism.

The unfinished agenda here is to continue the attack on reproductive rights; to roll back laws designed to control gun proliferation, thereby doing little to alleviate the anxieties of minorities at the receiving end of police violence; to keep up the disparaging rhetoric targeting immigrants as such and undocumented workers in particular, especially to garner political capital on the issue of border crossings in the south; and to push back against a host of other liberal-era reforms passed under Mr. Biden and his democratic predecessor Barack Obama, including health-care reform laws, minimum wage requirements, environmental protection measures and many others.

In the realm of foreign policy, under Mr. Trump the U.S. exited a range of international organisations and treaties, including the World Health Organization, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Paris Climate Agreement, UNESCO, the Iran nuclear deal, the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Relief and Works Agency, and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces arms control treaty with Russia. His administration also either blocked some aspects of the functioning of or publicly disparaged the World Trade Organization and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

In some of the above cases, the philosophical "principle" underlying the U.S.'s exit from an international obligation was simply the notion that Washington was better off shifting its policy gaze inward and allowing other world powers to do more heavy lifting for international institutions – seen as but one step required to Make America Great Again.

Yet, the other dimension of the U.S.'s global retreat contained a strategic element – such as the view in the Trump White House that UNESCO had an anti-Israel bias, or that while Washington might continue to aid Ukraine in repelling the Russian invasion, more support for NATO was required of western European powers who, after all, were far closer to the conflict zone to their east.

Indeed, if Mr. Trump romps back to power next year, it could well be expected that his White House would capitalise on the disenchantment that both the liberal left and the pro-Israel right in the U.S. have felt with regards to the Biden strategy for the war in Gaza. According to a recent Times/Siena poll, 57% of registered voters disapprove of the manner in which the Biden administration has managed the conflict, while young voters, aged 18-29 years disapprove overwhelmingly, at 72%.

Similarly, the House of Representatives, which is Republican-controlled and increasingly bowing to the wishes of MAGA lawmakers including the House Freedom Caucus members, has come close to defunding for Ukraine's war efforts and may yet do so, even in the face of Speaker Mike Johnson urging that Washington's support to Kyiv should continue.

Finally, while the trade war launched by Trump 1.0 against China and other nations marked the triumph of domestic populism over international economic common sense, Trump 2.0, if it comes to pass, may well apply a more *laissez-faire* approach. This might imply turning a blind eye to a regional hegemon's aggressive territorial ambitions in the South China Sea and across other parts of Asia, so long as Beijing placates Washington with favourable trade and investment terms.

The future of Trumpism

All this is in the realm of what might be, extrapolating from how the first wave of Trumpism reshaped institutional reality, redefined the limits of political correctness and rewrote the core tenets of American democracy. Even as Mr. Trump learns – perhaps not the lessons liberals would expect him to – from the slew of indictments that he has been slapped with, Trumpism can equally be expected to be transmogrified into a different beast, with new tactics and responses to a changed ground reality in 2024.

Nevertheless, the troubling question that his rise in 2016 begged still remains: can the U.S. ever hope to bridge the partisan gap and transcend the bitter polarisation that has become the norm, impacting every socio-economic issue that it grapples with? Maybe a future election could hold out hope for this collective healing to occur; but 2024 does not look promising in this context.

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A call for disability inclusion that must be heeded

Dr. Ennapadam S. Krishnamoorthy

is Founder – Buddhi Clinic, Past President, International Neuropsychiatric Association (INA) and Adjunct Professor, Manipal University and the Public Health Foundation of India

It is almost a month since the International Day for Persons with Disabilities (December 3) passed. Yet, we must pause and consider the importance of novel and innovative solutions that enhance two important outcomes for the people affected, i.e., activities of daily life and quality of life. By calling for "transformative solutions that will lead to inclusive development, leaving no one behind", the United Nations has shifted the focus back on innovations that reduce disability. In the important medical field of "neuropsychiatry" that straddles the brain-mind interface, there have been several treatment innovations with the potential to enhance outcomes – and the focus of this article.

Neuropsychiatric disorders are, by definition, disabling and present themselves across the lifespan. These range from autism, Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and intellectual disability in childhood (317 million), and to mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, eating disorder, addictions, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder through adolescence and adult life (167 million adolescents and 970 million people, globally), traumatic brain injury, spinal injury, epilepsy and headache across the lifespan, stroke, neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's dementia and Parkinson's disease that appear in old age (276 million neurologically affected individuals in all).

Revamp rehabilitation services

With such a large burden of people affected around the globe, it is rational to assume that rehabilitation needs are plentiful. According to the World Health Organization's Global Burden of Disease study, 2019, 2·41 billion individuals had conditions that would benefit from rehabilitation, contributing to 310 million Years of Living with Disabilities (YLD). This number had increased by 63% from 1990 to 2019. However, with rehabilitation often being seen as a disability-specific service, needed by only a few, it has, despite its individual and societal benefits, not been prioritised in countries and is traditionally under-resourced.

> There needs to be a focus on solutions that enhance the activities of daily life and the quality of life for the disabled

With neurology and psychiatry being closely linked, there exists a continuum of needs between these conditions, often with considerable overlap. Rehabilitation services must, therefore, be designed to address the wide spectrum of neurological and mental health problems as opposed to being narrow in concept and specialist led. There is a need to build awareness in the community that disablement does not need to be endured and can be treated, even reversed, in a proportion of cases.

There is also a need to encourage medical professionals, medical service providers (government, private and non-profit) as well as public health professionals to consider rehabilitation as an essential service. Beyond doctors and nurses, rehabilitation across the lifespan requires a range of professionals: physical and occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, psychological therapists and professional caregivers. Enhancing these professional profiles, improving training, creating mainstream opportunities for career development and empowering their professional growth is important in order for services to develop and evolve. Further, it is widely understood today that rehabilitation services need to be multidisciplinary, multicomponent and holistic. Developing such service paradigms is crucial.

Tap scientific advances

There are unique paradigms of care that have emerged through scientific advances that we must consider. A host of non-invasive brain stimulation (NIBS) procedures have proved themselves to be very useful in the care and rehabilitation of neurological and mental health conditions. Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) as a mainstream treatment for both depression and obsessive compulsive disorder and as an adjuvant treatment for diverse conditions: tremors of Parkinson's disease, Schizophrenia (hallucinations and other psychotic symptoms), addictions, pain and spasticity management especially that following strokes and traumatic brain injury, adolescent and adult Autism Spectrum Disorder, aggression and so on. An allied technique, Functional (or peripheral) Magnetic Stimulation (FMS), is also available today for pain, spasticity, incontinence and other disabling neurological symptoms.

Another NIBS technique with great promise is transcranial electrical stimulation (TES) with its many sub-types (direct current, alternate current and random noise). The treatment has shown itself to be successful in improving memory and cognition, mood and behaviour, anxiety, tremors, confusion and delirium, and sleep disorders. It has the advantage of being portable and bedside. In the post-COVID-19 era, another treatment that has assumed importance is transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (tA-VNS), vagus nerve abnormalities being responsible for a host of long COVID-19 symptoms. Developed as a treatment for epilepsy, this is currently being investigated for depression, migraine and dysautonomia.

Need for collaboration

With a billion people with disabilities worldwide, 80% in developing countries, the United Nation's call for disability inclusion being central to the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind assumes importance. People in vulnerable situations such as persons with disabilities are the most excluded and left behind, especially in times of crisis, as was apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, it is crucial for governments, the public and private sectors to collaborate and find innovative solutions for and with persons with disabilities, to make the world a more accessible and equitable place.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Qatar development

There have been a number of speculative reports about the eight Indian Navy veterans having been sentenced to death for espionage activities, allegedly involving the passing on of classified technology to another country. Even though the death penalty has been dropped, India must continue its diplomatic efforts to bring them back to India. The episode should lead to greater caution when Indians take up and execute assignments in other countries.

Govardhana Myneedu,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

The ruling is a victory but more needs to be done. Diplomatic acumen is required along with the right political will to ensure the safety, the security and the well-being of the eight personnel.

Manas Agarwal,
New Delhi

Vijayakant

'Captain', as Vijayakant was affectionately known in the film world, always ensured that those who called on him at his residence, office or even shoot spot were fed sumptuously. He was generous to those in need. He enjoyed the unalloyed patronage and unstinting appreciation of his band of fans largely because of his scintillating acting skills.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

Actor and politician Vijayakant's passing has left millions of his admirers heartbroken. The perception was that he was a clean leader and a good actor. His mass appeal stemmed from his modest rise in life, which resonated with many of his fans. The impact he has had on the lives of many cannot be quantified, as his influence has reached far beyond the realms of cinema and politics.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Passengers of the chartered plane, which was grounded in France for four days over suspected human trafficking, arrive in Mumbai. PTI

Dream destination, nightmarish journey

A chartered plane from the UAE to Nicaragua was grounded in France for a human trafficking probe. The flight, which was carrying 303 Indians, was finally forced to return to Mumbai. **Mahesh Langa** reports on how those from Gujarat, frustrated by the lack of opportunities, travel abroad, especially to the U.S. and Canada, by hook or by crook, even if it means risking their lives

On December 21, a Legend Airlines flight departed from Dubai carrying 303 Indian passengers. Hours later, the flight, which was bound for the central American country of Nicaragua, landed at the Vatry airport in France, 160 km from Paris, for a technical halt. But the flight was not allowed to take off again. The French authorities had received information that the passengers had possibly been trafficked. They swung into action, converting the airport into a makeshift tribunal and calling judges and lawyers for emergency hearings. The passengers, who were possibly tired and nervous, were summoned before a judge.

"The French authorities had received a tip-off and took it very seriously. All the 303 passengers were Indian citizens and they had boarded the flight in the UAE," said the airlines lawyer, Liliana Bakayoko. She did not explain whether the tip-off came from a third country or an agency that has friendly ties with France.

Bakayoko said the French authorities launched an investigation immediately. "At the moment, we can say that the aircraft was hired by a non-European client (of Legend Airlines) who had also sold tickets to the Indian citizens on board," she said. She refused to name the client.

During their interrogation, the French officials discovered that many of the passengers had booked hotel rooms in Nicaragua. A few of them had tickets to return to the UAE. They found this information intriguing as Nicaragua, bordered by Honduras to the north and Costa Rica to the south, is known to be a popular gateway to North America, where thousands travel every year in the hope of moving upwards both socially and economically.

On December 27, however, the French authorities stopped exploring the angle of human trafficking. This was because the detained passengers informed them that they had boarded the aircraft "willingly," Bakayoko said. The case, which had transfixed France and India for five days, took a crucial turn, for the disclosure indicated that the passengers had probably paid substantial sums of money to board the aircraft bound for Managua, Nicaragua.

The flight was grounded for four days. As neither Nicaragua nor the UAE were willing to host the aircraft, the Indian authorities urged the passengers, who held Indian passports, to return home. The flight landed in Mumbai on December 26 but with only 276 passengers. Twenty-five of the passengers had sought asylum in France instead. They were transferred to a special zone in Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport for asylum-seekers. "Two passengers were taken into custody as they carried with them multiple passports and a substantial amount of money," said Bakayoko.

Donkey flights

The episode has once again called attention to the staggering number of Indians who migrate illegally to the U.S. or Canada taking 'donkey routes'. This refers to a method where migrants transit through various countries with lenient visa policies to finally reach their dream destinations, particularly the U.S., the U.K., and Canada. Sometimes, migrants even resort to dangerous ways of crossing a border, such as traversing dense forests inhabited by wild animals and criminal gangs, or travelling in sub-zero temperatures, or crossing rivers and other water bodies in rickety boats and treacherous conditions.

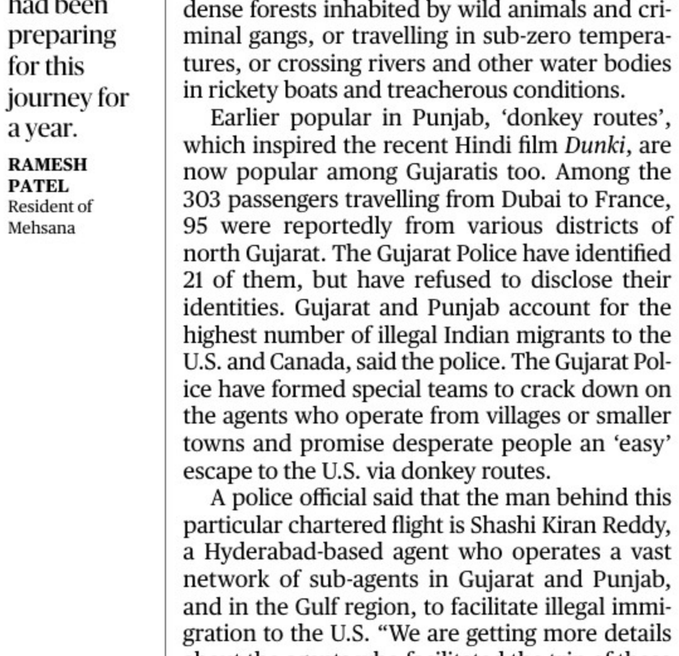
> My relatives had been preparing for this journey for a year.
>
> **RAMESH PATEL**
> Resident of Mehsana

Earlier popular in Punjab, 'donkey routes', which inspired the recent Hindi film *Dunki*, are now popular among Gujaratis too. Among the 303 passengers travelling from Dubai to France, 95 were reportedly from various districts of north Gujarat. The Gujarat Police have identified 21 of them, but have refused to disclose their identities. Gujarat and Punjab account for the highest number of illegal Indian migrants to the U.S. and Canada, said the police. The Gujarat Police have formed special teams to crack down on the agents who operate from villages or smaller towns and promise desperate people an 'easy' escape to the U.S. via donkey routes.

A police official said that the man behind this particular chartered flight is Shashi Kiran Reddy, a Hyderabad-based agent who operates a vast network of sub-agents in Gujarat and Punjab, and in the Gulf region, to facilitate illegal immigration to the U.S. "We are getting more details about the agents who facilitated the trip of these passengers," he said.

In Mehsana district of Gujarat, a hotbed for illegal immigration, Ramesh Patel said two of his relatives were on that flight. "I cannot reveal their names but they had been preparing for this journey for a year," he said. "Both my relatives had gone to Dubai two weeks ago. They had taken this special flight from there."

According to multiple sources in six villages of the districts of Gandhinagar, Mehsana, and Sabarkantha in Gujarat, hundreds of people have illegally migrated in the last two or three years. "It becomes news only when a flight is grounded or when people die while trying to cross into the U.S. from Canada or Mexico. Otherwise, this practice goes on unabated. Hundreds of people have made it to these places safely," said Parbat Chaudhary, a resident of Visnagar, a city in Mehsana district.



The plane grounded by the police at the Vatry airport took off four days after it landed in France. AP

Nehaben Patel, a resident of Sabarkantha, said this is a common practice and takes place with the knowledge of the local authorities. "One of the factors fuelling this surge is the opportunities abroad. People don't find any opportunities here. There are no well-paying jobs and sometimes no jobs at all in villages, smaller towns, and even cities. If they move to a big city like Ahmedabad, it is expensive. They would rather spend money to move to the U.S. through illegal routes and make more of their lives there."

A community leader from Mehsana claimed that most of the government recruitment exams have been rigged or marred with allegations of corruption and irregularities in the last 15 years. "There is a sense that only those who pay money or are well-connected get government jobs," he said. "There are no well-paying private jobs. So, it is better to be in some menial job in Canada or the U.S. and earn well than stay here in India and struggle forever."

Tragic journeys

In the last two years, at least nine Indians have died while trying to cross into the U.S. from Canada or Mexico. In January 2022, a family of four from Dingucha village in Gandhinagar district – Jagdish Patel, 39; his wife Vaishaliben Patel, 37; and their daughters Vihangi, 11, and Dharmik, 3, – set off from Dingucha with Canada visitor visas stamped in their passports. About a week later, the family reached Emerson, a small town on the U.S.-Canada border. They decided to make the arduous journey to the U.S. on foot. It was peak winter. Temperatures in the region sometimes drop to below -30°C. The next day, their bodies were discovered in snow. They had frozen to death just metres from the U.S. border. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau described the incident as a "mind-blowing tragedy".

In December 2022, Brijkumar Yadav from Mehsana district died while scaling the Mexico-U.S. border wall, popularly called the Trump Wall, with his wife and three-year-old son. His wife and son survived and are now in the U.S.

In April 2023, another family of four from Manekpura village in Mehsana died when the boat they were travelling in capsized in the St. Lawrence River at the U.S.-Canada border. The victims were identified as Pravinbhai Chaudhari, 49; his wife Dakshaben, 45; their daughter Vidhi, 23; and son Meet, 20. Their bodies were washed ashore on marshy land.

In April this year, Jignesh Barot and his wife Vandana from Kalol near Gandhinagar boarded a flight for Colombo in Sri Lanka. From there, the couple had planned to go to Europe, then Mexico, and finally to the U.S. Vignesh and Vandana and another couple had agreed to pay ₹75 lakh-₹90 lakh to an agent, Kamlesh Barot, the police said. Kamlesh accompanied the two couples to Colombo. From there, all of them flew to Jakarta in Indonesia where they were asked to stay till their visa for Canada was cleared. The couples were introduced to another agent, Rajesh Vira, and Kamlesh returned to India.

The two couples spent several weeks in Jakarta waiting for visas which never came. They ran out of money. Finally, in July, they returned to India with the help of relatives. Kamlesh, Vira, and another agent, Prakash Sindhi, reportedly threatened the couples who had demanded that the agents give their money back. The two couples had paid the agents around ₹10 lakh each while taking the flight to Sri Lanka. On returning, the couples lodged a complaint against Kamlesh, who was arrested by the Gandhinagar Police on charges of cheating and fraud.

> There is a sense that only those who pay money or are well-connected get government jobs. There are no well-paying private jobs. So, it is better to be in some menial job in Canada or the U.S. and earn well than stay in India and struggle forever.
>
> **COMMUNITY LEADER**
> **MEHSANA**

"Such complaints keep coming because people want to leave and go to the U.S. through illegal routes even if that means risking their lives," said a police inspector from north Gujarat.

'No improvement in living standards here'

In Manekpura, few were willing to speak about why middle-class families prefer to live illegally in the U.S. or Canada than remain in India. "There is no future for some people here. There are fewer opportunities, incomes are stagnant, and there is no improvement in living standards. People take massive risks to secure the future of their children. They think it is worth it if they safely make it to their destination," said a resident.

"Many families have relatives in the U.S., Canada, or the U.K. Whenever their relatives come home, people here are in awe of their lifestyle and living standards. Those relatives now own property in cities like Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. So, the people here think that if they also move out, they will be better off in a few years. Here, all they can do is some farming or run a small-time business," said a local politician from Gandhinagar, who admits that many people seek his help or support for moving out.

Some young people are so desperate to move that they adopt unusual ways to pass through illegal channels, said the police. Last September, for instance, the Mehsana Police booked 45 people for running an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) racket. They had found that four young men from Mehsana had scored a high rank in the IELTS exam without appearing for it and had sought admissions into colleges in Canada. The four immigrants were caught by the U.S. Border Authorities while trying to cross into the country from Canada in April 2022. When they appeared before the Northern District Court of New York, they were unable to speak or understand a word of English.

From November 2022 to September 2023, up to 96,917 Indians were arrested while crossing illegally into the U.S., according to the latest U.S. Customs and Border Protection data. Of them, 30,010 were caught on the Canadian border and 41,770 at the frontier with Mexico. A year-wise break-up of the numbers of those arrested or apprehended suggests that the number of people moving to these countries in desperation is increasing. In 2019-20, there were 19,883 Indians apprehended. In 2020-21, up to 30,662 Indians were arrested while in 2021-22 this number was 63,927. After the deaths of the Patel family and due to the frequency of such incidents, U.S. and Canadian authorities have expressed concern to the authorities in Gujarat about the sprawling network of agents enabling this practice.

"Even as an illegal migrant, life seems much better in the U.S. Here, nothing is free except your vote and the empty chatter of our leaders," said a resident of Mansa whose family members moved to the U.S. about a decade ago and started a business.

From incidents in January and February this year, nine people remain missing after they left from Gujarat. The Ministry of External Affairs told the Gujarat High Court that India has not been able to locate them. No one knows whether they have reached their destination, were caught and put in jail, or have died.

With inputs from Kallol Bhattacherjee in New Delhi

From Page One

Centre, Assam sign peace pact with ULFA faction

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla said that over the years, several rounds of negotiations were held with the ULFA which had culminated in the peace agreement.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said that since 1979, nearly 10,000 people lost their lives in the Assam agitation and "many families till today have no answers why their sons and husbands were killed and those who killed were also not aware why they were killing people".

He said only 15% area in Assam remained under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA).

Mr. Sarma said doors were open for the Paresh Baruah faction of the ULFA to join the talks.

Key points

He said the key points of the peace accord were that 97 out of 126 Assembly seats in Assam would be reserved for indigenous people and the future delimitation exercise would follow this principle.

"This will address the question of political insecurity of the people of Assam," the Chief Minister said.

He said ₹1.5 lakh crore investment had been pledged in the peace accord and constitutional safeguards would be ensured by protecting land rights and putting restrictions on migration from one constituency to another.

A 16-member delegation of the ULFA, headed by Arabinda Rajkhowa, was present at the signing of the peace pact at North Block on Friday. The group joined the peace talks in 2011 when it signed the suspension of operation (SoO) with the MHA and the Assam government.

Nitish to helm JD(U) as Lalan Singh quits

The JD(U), however, is publicly framing Mr. Kumar's takeover as an attempt to make the party more "effective" and "assertive" in its negotiations with allies in the INDIA bloc ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Singh offered his resignation during the meeting, saying he wanted to focus on the election.

While proposing Mr. Kumar's name to succeed him, Mr. Singh sought to clear the air, saying the media had been running false reports about him, suggesting that he may split the party. Mr. Singh had taken over as the party's national president on July 31, 2021.

At a press conference later, the JD(U)'s chief spokesperson, K.C. Tyagi, rejected speculation of internal schisms.

"We are Janata Dal (United) and we remain united. I can say that for the past few days, BJP-inspired propaganda was going on but ultimately they are disappointed."

Mr. Tyagi strongly denied reports that the JD(U) could return to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

But at the same time, he issued a reminder that there are no enemies in politics.

Speaking to *The Hindu* later, Mr. Tyagi said that the Bihar Chief Minister is set to begin his all-India tour in the New Year.

A senior JD(U) leader who was present in the meeting told *The Hindu* on the condition of anonymity: "Lalan *babu* was at the helm of the affairs but somewhere he failed to perform his duty as far as convincing the INDIA bloc leaders to propose the name of Nitish Kumar as convener or the coordinator. Nitish*ji* is a sharp politician and he had got this sense that continuing Lalan *babu* on the top post might cost him when the time of seat sharing comes."

The JD(U) leader, however, denied that Mr. Singh had been shown the door because of his proximity with RJD supremo Lalu Prasad as claimed by BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi.

Mr. Modi however reiterated that his prediction has turned right that Mr. Singh was engaged in breaking the JD(U) on the behest of Mr. Prasad.

He further claimed that two groups have formed within JD(U), out of which one camp is Lalu-supporter led by Mr. Singh who was holding back more than 12 MLAs and the second group maintains goodwill towards BJP.

Interest rates up on two small savings schemes

While this marks the sixth successive quarter of hikes in select small savings schemes, the PPF rate has been unchanged since April 2020. The return on the SSAS was also held at 7.6% from April 2020, but was hiked to 8% in April this year. The returns on the PPF and the SSAS are tax-free.

By Reserve Bank of India (RBI) norms, the PPF return should have been pegged at 7.51% for the October to December 2023 quarter, as per the formula-based rates regime for small savings schemes adopted in 2016.

The RBI, in its monetary policy report for October, had also noted that returns on the five-year recurring deposit (RD) accounts should have been hiked to 6.91% for this quarter. However, those rates have also been left unchanged at 6.7% for the upcoming January-to-March 2024 period.

Small savings schemes' rates for the next quarter, as per the adopted formula, are linked to the government bond yields prevailing between September and November 2023 for securities of matching maturities.

J&K BJP leaders meet families of slain civilians

Three civilians died and eight were injured after security forces rounded up villagers from Poonch and Rajouri after a terror attack on an Army convoy; the killing sparked major unrest in the region

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

BJP leaders of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday visited the families of the three civilians who died after being allegedly tortured in the custody of security forces. The three were detained by the security forces immediately after the December 21 terrorist attack on an Army convoy in Poonch district's Pir Panjal Valley that left four soldiers dead.

The BJP leaders promised stern action against the culprits. J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina visited the families of the deceased civilians. He also met the civilians who are being treated at Surankote hospital in Poonch.

"The entire nation, the Central and the J&K governments stand with the victims. Those responsible will be punished sternly. Those involved have committed a major crime. The Union Defence Minister also met the families recently and reassured them," Mr. Raina said.

Peace call: Supporters of National Conference shout slogans during a protest in Srinagar over the death of the three civilians. AP

Deadly ambush

Three civilians died and around eight were injured after security forces rounded up villagers from hamlets in Poonch and Rajouri.

BJP MP Gulam Ali Khatana also visited the families in Poonch to express solidarity. Mr. Khatana is a Gujjar leader and the victims also belonged to the nomadic tribe from the Pir Panjal Valley.

Security forces depend on the Gujjars living close to the Line of Control (LoC) to augment their security apparatus and carry out special recruitment drives to recruit from the community. However, the killing of the three civilians sparked major unrest and protests in the region, especially after a 29-second video showed the victims being beaten up. Salt and chilli powder were also thrown over them. The Army has initiated an inquiry and the J&K Police have lodged a first information report.

Meanwhile, Farooq Abdullah and Mian Altaf, both senior leaders of the National Conference, also reached the Pir Panjal Valley and met the families of the victims on Friday. Mr. Altaf belongs to the Gujjar community. Mr. Abdullah said his party sought an impartial and time-bound judicial probe into the Poonch incident. He appealed to the government and law enforcement agencies "to take concrete and effective measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents of gross human rights violation".

A huge quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered in the Mendhar area of Poonch. The arms were recovered in the Kasblari area during a search close to the LoC.

In SC, Kerala seeks norms for Governors on reserving Bills

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Kerala has moved the Supreme Court for guidelines on the circumstances under which the Governor may reserve Bills presented to him for the consideration of the President, withhold his assent or return it to the Assembly. The State recently made the plea by an amendment to its writ petition.

The State wants the court to interpret the phrase "as soon as possible" in the first proviso to Article 200 of the Constitution on the timeline for the disposal of the Bills presented to the Governor.

Article 200 prescribes that the Governor may exercise the option of sending the Bills to the President, withhold the assent or return it to the Assembly as soon as possible.

Kerala pointed out that Governor Arif Mohammed Khan sat on eight Bills that were passed by the State legislature even up to three years. Later, the Governor sent seven of the eight Bills for the consideration of the President without examining each one of them and giving reasons for reserving them. The Governor resorted to this step after the court issued notice on November 20, it said.

The court is likely to consider the case when it resumes functioning after the holidays.

C. K. Sasi, standing counsel for the State, reemphasised the plea to declare that the Governor failed to exercise his powers and duties under the Constitution through his inaction on the Bills that were presented for his consideration.

Kerala has also sought a directive of the court to the Governor to dispose of the pending Bills without further delay.

The Supreme Court is likely to consider the case when it resumes functioning after the holidays.

Nadda to release stamp on Sri Lankan Tamils

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In possibly a first-of-its-kind initiative, BJP president J.P. Nadda will be releasing a commemorative stamp in recognition of the "toil" of the Indian-origin Tamil community in Sri Lanka in establishing the plantation industry and other infrastructure in that country, 200 years after they first arrived there.

The event will be held at the BJP's headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday with the commemorative stamp to be received by Senthil Thondaman, Governor of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

J.P. Nadda

Several initiatives

In a statement giving details of the event, BJP Tamil Nadu president K. Annamalai said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi considered Sri Lanka a "civilisational twin for India". The commemorative postal stamp marking 200 years since the Tamil community of Indian origin arrived in Sri Lanka is a "recognition of their toil in establishing the plantation industry and other infrastructure in Sri Lanka after being despatched to Sri Lanka by the British".

He further said that Mr. Modi has "earnestly undertaken several initiatives to ensure the welfare and development of the Indian-origin Tamil community in Sri Lanka" since he assumed office in 2014.

He added that the Modi government had sanctioned 14,000 houses in addition to setting up other facilities in areas where the Tamil population resides.

"Furthermore, owing to India's neighbour-first policy, about $4 billion worth of financial aid was extended to Sri Lanka when the country reeled from an unprecedented economic crisis," he said.

"Prime Minister Modi is untiringly delivering support to aid the wellbeing of lakhs of Indian-origin Tamils in the island country and the BJP has been striving to ensure their prosperity," he said in his statement.

The event also assumes importance in the backdrop of the start of the second Kashi-Tamil Sangamam being held in Varanasi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's own trip to Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep in the New Year.

Indian Navy unveils new epaulettes for admirals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement during the Navy Day celebrations in Sindhudurg on December 4, the Navy unveiled the new design of epaulettes for admirals, with the octagon in the new design drawn from the naval ensign and inspired by *rajmudra* of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

Rank symbols: The epaulettes are the true reflection of maritime heritage, the Navy said. X/INDIANNAVY

The Navy said the new design is a "true reflection of our rich maritime heritage" and reiterates the "resolve to do away with *Ghulami ki Maansikta*".

The Navy is also set to rename some of the ranks now in British nomenclature to reflect an Indian connection.

"Adoption of the new design reaffirms our commitment to the two pillars of *Panch Pran - Virasat Par Garv* & *Ghulami ki Mansikta se Mukti*," the Navy said on social media platform 'X'. "*Bharatiya Nausena* embracing *Bharatiyata* in letter and spirit."

The new epaulettes have the golden Navy button top, followed by an octagon, an Indian sword and a telescope crossed, followed by stars indicating the ranks.

In his remarks at the Navy Day celebrations, Mr. Modi said by seeking inspiration from Chhatrapati Veer Shivaji Maharaj, "Bharat is moving forward leaving behind the slave mentality". "I am glad that now a glimpse of the legacy of Chhatrapati Veer Shivaji Maharaj is also going to be seen in the epaulettes worn by our Naval Officers. The new epaulettes will also now be similar to the insignia of the Navy," he stated.

In September 2022, during the commissioning of the first indigenous aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant*, Mr. Modi had unveiled a new Naval ensign. He had also said that the Navy would rename its ranks "in line" with Indian traditions.

Students question Centre's decision not to hike Maulana Azad scholarships

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Researchers and doctoral students from 30 universities across the country have written separate letters to Union Minority Affairs Minister Smriti Irani to increase the scholarships under the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF). The students allege disparity as the scholarship amount for all the other research fellowships was increased recently, while that of the MANF – given to scholars from six minority communities – remained the same.

Ms. Irani had recently announced in Parliament the Centre's decision to discontinue the MANF citing the overlapping of various similar scholarships.

The All India Research Scholars Association (AIRSA), an organisation of researchers, said in its letter to Ms. Irani that research plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of the country and that investing in research and fostering research fellowships is crucial.

The scholarship amount for all the other research fellowships was increased recently. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

"The scheme was like a blessing for the minority students falling below creamy layer income to encourage them to pursue higher education like Ph.D. and M.Phil. without worrying about financial constraints," they said.

The researchers said the last revision of the scholarship was made in 2019; all other scholarships distributed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other Ministries such as the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs faced another revision this year. The fellowship amount of the various UGC-approved schemes has been hiked from ₹31,000 to ₹37,000 for junior researchers and from ₹35,000 to ₹42,000 for senior researchers from January 1, 2023.

The MANF scholars from across 30 universities such as the Jamia Millia Islamia, Aligarh Muslim University, Gauhati University, Sardar Patel University, Aliah University, University of Calicut, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, HSNC University, Kumaon University and IIMT University have urged Ms. Irani and her Ministry, the nodal agency for distribution of the MANF, to expedite the process to increase the scholarship and disburse the fellowship on a monthly basis.

Student outfits of Opposition parties have also taken up the matter.

"After discontinuing the MANF for upcoming batches, the BJP-led Union government is continuing discrimination against minority students by selectively not increasing the amount for existing MANF fellows," said SFI general secretary Mayukh Biswas.

Dhankhar rejects AAP request for interim floor leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has turned down the Aam Aadmi Party's request to appoint Raghav Chadha as the party's interim leader in the Upper House, Parliament sources said.

Sources in the AAP, however, said Rajya Sabha officials have suggested some correction in the letter sent to the Chairman for nominating Mr. Chadha as "interim leader" and they will shortly be sending a corrected application.

Mr. Dhankhar, according to sources, in a letter to AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal stated that the request does not comply with the rules.

In his letter, the Rajya Sabha Chairman ruled: "This aspect is subject to 'The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998' and the Rules made thereunder. The request, not being in conformity to applicable legal regime, is not being acceded to."

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, who is the current floor leader, was arrested on October 4 and has been in judicial custody. His term expires on January 27.

Citing this, earlier this month, Mr. Kejriwal recommended to the Chairman to appoint Mr. Chadha as the floor leader.

Under The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, referred to by Mr. Dhankhar in his letter to Mr. Kejriwal, there is no provision of "interim leader". Yet, the right to choose the floor leaders lies entirely with the party.

JD(U) attacks BJP, says Nitish's priority is to unite the Opposition

Strongly worded resolution accuses the BJP of promoting fascism; says saffron party is using *Sanatana Dharma* to distract from efforts to undermine rights of minorities, Dalits, Adivasis, backward communities, and it wants to impose *Manusmriti*

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Janata Dal (United) attacked the BJP in a strongly worded political resolution at its national council meeting on Friday, at a time when speculation is rife about the party switching sides and returning to the BJP-led NDA fold ahead of the Lok Sabha election in 2024.

The resolution accused the BJP of using the narrative of *Sanatana Dharma* as a diversionary tactic while "undermining the rights of backward community, Dalits, Adivasis and minority groups".

Four resolutions were passed at the meeting, including one on caste census which applauded the JD(U) for taking the lead on the issue, and another authorising new party president Nitish Kumar to negotiate with allies in the Opposition INDIA bloc.

Critical stance: Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Nitish Kumar convening the JD(U)'s national executive meeting in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

'Promoting fascism'

The three-page political resolution largely concentrated on criticising the BJP. The Union government, under the BJP, is progressively headed towards establishing fascism and is working to weaken constitutional institutions and the federal structure of the country, said the resolution. While turning a blind eye towards people's problems, it is raising "false slogans" to distract them, the resolution added. The BJP, the resolution said, is seeking to counter the Opposition's allegations of imperilling Constitution with its *Sanatana Dharma* narrative. In the resolution, the JD(U) insisted that it respects the *Sanatana* culture, values, traditions, and principles.

"They remember *Sanatana Dharma* only when we raise the issue of the government undermining the Constitutional rights of backward communities, Dalits, Adivasis and minorities," the resolution stated. Going a step further, it alleged that, in the garb of *Sanatana Dharma*, the BJP actually wants to impose *Manusmriti*, an ancient Hindu text establishing the caste-based order of society.

Conspiracy theories

Seeking to reject conspiracy theories that Mr. Kumar's accession to the party president's chair is the first step for the JD(U)'s return to the NDA fold, the resolution credited Mr. Kumar with taking the initiative to unite the Opposition parties.

It labelled the first-ever meeting of the INDIA bloc held in Patna on June 23 as the beginning of the campaign to remove the BJP from power at the Centre.

"BJP is anxious because the INDIA bloc has a leader like Nitish Kumar, which is leading them to make unsubstantiated remarks about him. Nitish Kumar has clearly said that he does not aspire to be the Prime Minister or convener of the INDIA bloc. His only priority is to unite the anti-BJP Opposition," the resolution stated.

Without naming any party, it also said that the success of the Opposition bloc would depend on the bigger parties and whether they displayed a generous spirit or not.

Just the start of game, BJP says as Singh quits as JD(U) president

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The BJP said on Friday that the resignation of Rajiv Ranjan Singh as national president of the Janata Dal (U) and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar taking over the post is "just the start of a game", with a second act to follow soon in this political drama.

"I had been predicting for a week that Singh will be removed. He had to be removed owing to his growing proximity to [Rashtriya Janata Dal leader] Lalu Prasad. This is, however, not the end of the game; in fact, it is just the start of the game. Much has to happen after this. Wait for the next act of this game," Bihar's former Deputy Chief Minister and BJP MP Sushil Kumar Modi posted on social media.

'Fluid' situation

Sources in the BJP's national team said the political situation in Bihar was "quite fluid" at the moment and a lot could happen. Bihar BJP leaders however, were dismissive of any suggestion of a realignment between the party and the JD(U), its erstwhile ally. "The era of cheating is now over. The public will not accept the group of thugs now," Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Vijay Kumar Sinha said in New Delhi.

He added that "somehow, the people's faith in them has gone down further with the atmosphere of confusion and mistrust [in the party]".

'Wait and watch'

Sources in the BJP said that Mr. Singh had a set of JD(U) MLAs in his camp and could have made a bid to split the party. "What Nitish Kumar has actually done is to pre-empt that move by Singh. It is likely he will remain with the UPA-INDIA grouping, but let us wait and watch," a source said.

National Democratic Alliance ally and Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal president Upendra Kushwaha, who had left the JD(U) following differences with Mr. Kumar after the latter tied up with the RJD and left the NDA, said that what had happened was "inevitable". He predicted the demise of the JD(U) itself.

Sonia, Congress leaders yet to decide on attending Ram Temple inauguration

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Amid news reports that Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi will attend the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, the party on Friday said "a decision would be taken and communicated at an appropriate time".

Apart from Ms. Gandhi, Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and the party's leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, have been invited.

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh distanced the party from a comment of senior leader Sam Pitroda, who had asked "if Ram Mandir was the real issue or unemployment".

"Sam Pitroda's statement is not an official statement of the Congress. He doesn't speak on behalf of the Congress party," Mr. Ramesh said.

The issue of handling the invitation for the temple consecration has become politically sensitive and has been discussed at the highest level. Sources told *The Hindu* that soon after Ms. Gandhi and Mr. Kharge received their invitation, top leaders met to decide the party's position.

Besides Mr. Kharge and Ms. Gandhi, the leaders who were consulted included P. Chidambaram, Ambika Soni, K.C. Venugopal, Mr. Ramesh, Digvijaya Singh, and Randeep Surjewala.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and party leaders Sonia Gandhi and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury have been invited to the event.

"The [Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra] Trust doesn't belong to any party. What is the objection in going? Sonia*ji* is quite positive. Either she will go or our delegation will attend," Mr. Singh had earlier told a news agency.

The Congress leaders, however, may not be able to depute anyone in their place as the invitation is said to be non-transferable.

The issue is a tricky one as there is opposition within as well as among allies. The party's ally in Kerala, the Indian Union Muslim League, is strongly opposed to it but maintained that the Congress can take its own call.

The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) too seems divided.

While CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury has declined the invitation, leaders of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) are strong supporters of the Ram Temple.

On November 9, 2019, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) said the party respected the Supreme Court verdict and favoured the construction of the temple.

However, in a post on X on Friday, CWC member Shashi Tharoor said, "In 2024, it is clear the BJP will now revert to its core message and offer Narendra Modi to the nation as a *Hindu Hriday Samrat*".

"All of this begs the question: what happened to *achhe din*? What happened to two crore jobs a year? What happened to economic growth that would benefit the lower rungs of the socio-economic ladder? What happened to putting disposable income into the pockets and bank accounts of every Indian? These questions will have to be debated in an election that is shaping up to be Hindutva versus popular welfare," he said.

National Alliance Committee of Congress to submit report on tie-ups in two days

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Alliance Committee (NAC) of the Congress, which started a two-day meeting with the State units on Friday on the issue of alliances for the Lok Sabha election, will submit a report to the party president in two days.

Conveying a sense of urgency, the party has planned a series of meetings for the next week, including the first meeting of the Manifesto Committee on January 4.

On December 19, the Congress formed the five-member NAC, with Mukul Wasnik as convener and veteran leaders Ashok Gehlot, Bhupesh Baghel, Salman Khurshid, and Mohan Prakash as members.

While the Congress leadership, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, have briefed State units on the issue of alliances, the NAC is supposed to get into details such as the number of seats that the Congress could seek or offer to allies, the exact seats that the party wants to contest, and so on. "The NAC will give its recommendations to the Congress president and it will broadly contain what should be the negotiating points with our allies. By January 2 or 3, some people will be empowered to talk to the allies," a senior leader said.

The issue of alliances will be crucial in States like Punjab, Delhi, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, and Maharashtra. After its rout in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan elections, regional parties which are part of the INDIA bloc are not keen on offering the Congress a large chunk of seats. Similarly, the Congress unit in Punjab is not keen on an alliance with the Aam Admi Party (AAP).

Yatra plans

On January 4, Mr. Kharge will also preside over a meeting with the Congress chiefs and legislature party leaders from the States to discuss the preparedness for the Lok Sabha election as well as the specific route for the Bharat Nyay Yatra.

While the logo and tagline of the Nyay Yatra will be unveiled on that day, the detailed route of the yatra will be announced on January 8 and the theme song will be released on January 12.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 194,195,196,197/2023-24/ SE/PHC/ALP-RT-2, JJM Haripad 9LL OHSR Arattupuzha 6LL OHSR Kandalloor & Devikulangara zone-5, Thtikkunnapuzha, Karthikappally & Chingoli zone3, Ambalapuzha South 12LL OHSR,Purakkad 15LL OHSR and near by Panchayaths-Construction of OHSR Supply and installation of Transmission mains and Distribution mains, **EMD :** Rs.2,00,000/- to Rs.5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs.13,010/- to Rs.19,518/-, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 11-01-2024 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 0477-2237954,
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-1927-2023-24 PH Circle, Alappuzha

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 190,191,192,193/2023- 24/SE/PH C/ALP-RT-3, JJM Haripad 6LL OHSR at Cheppad 7LL OHSR at Pathiyoor Zone-1, 6LL OHSR Muthukulam & 10LL Sump zone -4, Cheruthana & Kumarapuram pump no.3, 4 &5 zone-2, Mavelikkara Thazhakkara, Chettikulangara & Karipuzha and near by Pts-Construction of WTP, OHSR Supply and installation of Transmission mains and Distribution mains, **EMD :** Rs.5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19,518/, **Last Date for submitting Tender:** 11-01-2024 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 0477-2237954
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-1926-2023-24 PH Circle, Alappuzha

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer — TENDER NOTICE
Adv.No.82/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.259/SE-I/TTD/2023-24 Dt:29/12/2023.
Name of work: 1) Improvements and Refurbishment of the existing buildings and premises of the SVIMS at Tirupati, Amount Rs.19700 Lakhs. Time for completion 24 months.
NOTE: For full details log on to the Website https:// www.tirumala.org.
Roc.No.PR4/13961/Adv.No.316/PRO/2023, Dated:29-12-2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)
(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030, Telangana, India
CORRIGENDUM PGDM (ABM) 2024-26 NOTIFICATION
The last date for submitting online/offline applications to the PGDM (ABM) 2024-26 batch at MANAGE is extended up to **10th February 2024.**
The Intake will be increased to 120 students from the **batch 2024-26.**
For further details visit **www.manage.gov.in**
Sd/-
Principal Coordinator PGDM (ABM)

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 E-Mail :md@kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	TENDER ID	ITEMS
1	2023_KMML_633764_1	For the supply of PTFE Lined Plug Valves and PTFE Sleeved Plug Valves
2	2023_KMML_632187_1	For supply of 16143 MT of Calcined Petroleum Coke
3	2023_KMML_631285_1	For the Transportation of 1530 MT of Sulphuric acid
4	2023_KMML_637452_1	Detailed project report preparation to manufacture sponge iron from iron oxide at KMML.
5	2023_KMML_636984_1	For the supply of Fabrication,supply and Erection of Idler End Cap and Trunnion Assembly- 1 ST
6	2023_KMML_637545_1	Excavation of iron oxide from third pond in as is where is condition and shifting to old ponds in KMML
7	2023_KMML_637622_1	Construction of RCC Delay pit in KMML

Chavara 29.12.2023 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor,
Sector - 11, Gandhinagar - 382 011
Website: https://www.gujarattourism.com
TENDER NOTICE (retender)
Bids are invited from reputed and experienced agencies towards **"Selection of an Agency for Operation and Maintenance of Sunset Point, Bhalchel Hill, Sasangir, Junagadh"**.
The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender document, which shall be available for download from the websites: **https://tender.nprocure.com/** and **http://www.gujarattourism.com** from **30/12/2023 onwards.**
The last date for submission of the **Technical Bid and Financial Bid (online only) is 19/01/2024 up to 6:00 pm. and Technical Bid (physical only) is 22/01/2024 up to 3:00 pm.**
Managing Director

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
VIJAYPUR, JAMMU-184120
Camp Office: GMC Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu-180001
Notification for Project-Cell Post (on Contractual Basis)
Applications are invited in the prescribed Proforma for filling up of the Project Cell Post **(on Contractual Basis)** mentioned hereunder for **AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu:-**

S. No	Name of Post	Level of Pay in Pay Matrix	No. of posts	Upper age Limit	Essential Eligibility Criteria of Contractual basis.
1.	Executive Engineer (Electrical)	Level 11 of 7th CPC	01	63 years	Officers Under the Central/State/ Governments/Universities/Statutory/ Autonomous Bodies or Research and Development Organizations. i. holding analogous posts on regular basis, or ii. Assistant Engineer (Electrical) with 5 years regular service in the grade pay of Rs. 5400/- or iii. Junior Engineer (Electrical) with **7 Years** Service in the grade of **Rs. 4600**

For other details, application form and terms & conditions, please visit the AIIMS Jammu website **www.aiimsjammu.edu.in** under the head **"Recruitment"** of AIIMS, Jammu. The duly filled in form along with attested photocopies of documents should reach **Deputy Director (Administration) Camp office : GMC Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu-180001 latest by 12th January, 2024** in case of any query, email at **recruitmentcellaiimsjammu@gmail.com.**
Sd/-
Deputy Director (Administration)
For and on Behalf of the Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu

MYSORE PAINTS & VARNISH LTD.,
(A Govt., of Karnataka Undertaking)
New Bannimantap Extension, MYSURU-570 015, Karnataka.
Phone: 0821-2493831/ 2497469/ 2499340,
website: www.mysorepaints.karnataka.gov.in
email: materials-mpvl@karnataka.gov.in
Date: 30.12.2023
SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Short term re Tender are invited from reputed manufacturers / authorized dealers for supply of the following materials (Conversion charges) through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal(KPPP) **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**. The details are as mentioned below:
Sl.No.01. **Short term Re-Tender notification Number:** MPVL/2023-24/IND0005/Call-2 **Tender Description:** Procurement of Silver Nitrate (e-Tender notification for supply of Silver Nitrate. 1 Item. Estimated value Rs. 40.21 Crore). **Tender Category:** Supply of Goods. **Last Date & Time for submission of Tender / Bids:** 06.01.2024 **Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening:** 09.01.2024
Interested parties may visit **www.mysorepaints.karnataka.gov.in** for details and can contact the undersigned for any further clarifications/ information and request to participate in the tender.
For Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd.,
Sd/-
Materials Manager/(TIA)

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KANAKAPURA
Ramanagara (District) - 562 117.
Phone : 080-2752 2428. E-mail : kanakapura_tmc@yahoo.co.in
Website : www.kanakapuratown.mrc.gov.in
No. : K.C.M.C./T.S.-1/SFC (Special)/CR/15/2022-23 Date : 28-12-2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-procurement portal Only)
The Municipal Commissioner, CMC, Kanakapura invites tenders in **Two Cover System** using **KW-4** document from Eligible contractors for the below work under **2022-23 SFC (Special) Grant, Indent No. : DMA/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT5021, Estimated Amount Rs. 125.00 Lakh,** Contractors can download and submit the tenders through e-procurement portal at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Calendar of events Date of Enquire Date :29-12-2023 10.00 hrs. to Date : 11-01-2024 17.30 hrs, Pre Bid Meeting Date : 05-01-2024 at 11.00 hrs, Last Date of Submission of tenders Date : 12-01-2024 upto 17.30 hrs, Date of Technical Bid Opening Date : 16-01-2024 at 11.00 hrs, Financial Bid Opening Date : 19-01-2024 at 11.00 hrs.** any corrigendum or extension of time will be published in e-procurement portal only, not in any news papers.
Sd/- Municipal Commissioner,
CMC, Kanakapura.
DIPR/Ramanagar/379/Manipal/2023-24

INBRIEF

Crew of cruise ship comes to rescue of five fishermen

The crew of a cruise ship came to the rescue of five fishermen, who were in danger of drowning off the Mumbai coast, on Christmas Day. A couple of passengers aboard the cruise ship *Costa Serena* spotted the fishermen waving at the ship from about a mile away, in the Arabian Sea. On being informed by the passengers, the crew of *Costa Serena*, under the guidance of captain Andrea Bardi, quickly changed course and reached the shipwrecked men. They also informed the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and ensured their rescue. On December 26, when the *Costa Serena* docked at the Kochi port, officials handed over an appreciation plaque to the crew.

Assam CM apologises for post on caste system, deletes it

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has apologised for his Bhagavad Gita-based social media post on the *Varna* or caste system in Hinduism. He has attributed the deleted post to an incorrect translation of Verse 44 from Chapter 18 of the Gita by a social media team member. "As a routine, I upload one sloka of the Bhagavad Gita every morning on my social media handles," he wrote on X and Facebook on Thursday. "...If the deleted post has offended anyone, I sincerely apologize," he said. The deleted post referred to the duties of Vaishyas and Shudras - at the bottom of the caste chain - toward the Brahmins and Kshatriyas, the upper castes.

ED custody of 3 Vivo-India executives extended by a day

A Delhi court on Friday extended the Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody of three Vivo-India executives by one day. They had been booked in a money laundering case against the Chinese smartphone maker. The three accused are interim CEO of Vivo-India Hong Xuquan, chief financial officer Harinder Dahiya and consultant Hemant Munjal. The court had earlier given six days' custody of the accused to the ED and they were produced in court on expiry of the same. The agency sought further custody for four days but the court granted only one day. The ED had earlier arrested four persons in the case.

Doctors urge Centre to revise NEET-SS cut-off to fill up seats

The United Doctors Front Association (UDFA) wrote to the Union Health Ministry on Friday requesting that the cut-off percentile be revised again for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for super-specialty courses, or NEET-SS, aligning with practices followed in NEET-PG 2023 and the previous year's NEET-SS. The NEET-SS is a qualifying-cum-ranking examination for admission to super-specialty courses. "After the conclusion of Round 2 of NEET-SS counselling, a significant vacancy of DM/MCH/DrNB seats has been identified," the UDFA said in its letter. The association has requested the Ministry to release the mop-up round or special round schedule promptly to fill all the vacant seats.

'Collect COVID data to take decisions, prepare systems'

Surges common for endemic infections, but they will have to be handled properly, says ex-Chief Scientist of WHO Soumya Swaminathan; another expert points towards syndromic management

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

Over the past four weeks, COVID-19 cases have gone up rapidly with the JN.1 variant becoming the predominant strain. Health experts weighed in on the measures to be taken for tackling such a surge.

Soumya Swaminathan, former Chief Scientist, World Health Organization, and chairperson, MSSRF, says that for an endemic infection, surges are common, but they will have to be anticipated and handled appropriately.

"There will be surges in the future. It is important to collect data in order to make decisions, in case another surge with a more deadly strain were to appear. Our systems will have to be prepared," she adds. This includes having vaccines and drugs at hand to use if the need arises.

"I think there is no point panicking over the number of cases. Testing is still negligible, and if we increase the number of tests, obviously the number of cases will also go up," she explains. Rather than looking at the COVID test numbers, governments should look at severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) and influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance data, focus on the proportion of COVID cases, and communicate that information, Dr. Swaminathan says.

Precautionary measure: School students wearing masks during a visit to the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. PTI

Syndromic approach

Senior infectious diseases consultant V. Ramasubramanian says it is possible to work without having the full picture regarding numbers. "We have moved over to syndromic management, and treat the symptoms. There are a number of cases of flu, people coming in with upper respiratory tract infections. Among inpatients at Apollo Hospitals, for instance, there are 5-10 cases of COVID-19." Some of these patients also get anti-virals such as remdesivir, and nimatrelvir, though both these anti-virals are in short supply, the latter more so, he adds.

Dr. Swaminathan suggests: "Clinically, it may not be COVID, but if you have an upper respiratory tract infection – breathlessness, drop in oxygen saturation, respiratory distress, persistent cough, leading up to pneumonia. It is good to test, and treat."

Former Chennai Corporation Health Officer P. Kuganantham advises that it is better to mask up while travelling on metro trains, and while present in air-conditioned rooms without ventilation. Health care workers and people visiting hospitals must wear masks, he says, adding that encouraging more people to take pneumococcal and flu vaccines regularly will protect against severe respiratory tract infections.

Extra precautions

"All said, it is not just a cold, there are post COVID sequelae that might be severe, so vulnerable groups need take extra precautions, including getting booster shots," Dr. Swaminathan says. The WHO itself has recommended that nations study lab assays and look at the neutralising effect of the virus strains with the protection afforded by vaccinations and/or natural infections. "We have to check if the immunity is holding good, and we need India-specific data on this. Once we have this kind of information, it will be possible to come to a conclusion on whether annual or bi-annual vaccination against COVID should be instituted."

Dr. Ramasubramanian says it is likely that this current wave will wind up in about six weeks. The faster a strain spreads, the faster will be its peak and it will come down, Dr. Swaminathan points out. The gap between appearance of variants that are significant seems to have gone to once in six months from the earlier four months, she adds.

ISRO all set to launch XPoSat, 10 other payloads on Jan. 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), following a landmark 2023, will ring in the New Year with the launch of the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission on January 1.

The PSLV will launch XPoSat along with 10 more payloads and the rocket is scheduled to lift off at 9.10 a.m. from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

XPoSat will study space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emissions from celestial sources. FILE PHOTO

For orbital experiments

"ISRO's PSLV-C58 Mission is to launch XPoSAT Satellite into an eastward low inclination orbit. After injection of XPoSAT, the PS4 stage will be re-started twice to reduce the orbit into a 350 km circular orbit to maintain in 3-axis stabilised mode for Orbital Platform experiments. The PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 experiment will be executed meeting the objective of 10 identified payloads, supplied by ISRO and IN-SPACe," the ISRO says on the upcoming mission.

XPoSat is the first dedicated scientific satellite from ISRO to carry out research in space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources.

It carries two payloads – POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) and XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing). POLIX has been developed by the Raman Research Institute and XSPECT is by the Space Astronomy Group of URSC, Bengaluru.

Payloads from start-ups

The PSLV will also launch 10 payloads developed by start-ups, educational institutions and ISRO centres. Among these payloads are Dust Experiment (DEX) by PRL, ISRO; Fuel Cell Power System (FCPS) by VSSC, ISRO; Si-based High Energy Cell by VSSC, ISRO; Radiation Shielding Experimental Module (RSEM) by TakeMe2Space; and WESAT by the LBS Institute of Technology for Women.

India requests LeT founder Hafiz Saeed's extradition from Pak.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India has asked Pakistan to extradite Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed, the 2008 Mumbai terror attack mastermind and a UN-proscribed terrorist, who is wanted by Indian investigation agencies in a number of terror cases.

The government has also taken note of reports of Saeed's son Talha Saeed standing for elections in Pakistan and said the "mainstreaming" of radical terrorist outfits in that country is nothing new and that it has been part of its State policy for a long time. Talha Saeed is considered number two in the LeT hierarchy with his father being at the helm of the terror outfit.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the request for extraditing Saeed along with certain documents was recently sent to Islamabad.

"The person in question is wanted in numerous cases in India. He is also a UN-proscribed terrorist. In this regard, we have conveyed a request along with relevant supporting documents to the government of Pakistan to extradite him to India to face trial in a particular case," Mr. Bagchi said in response to a question at his weekly media briefing.

The Indian High Commission in Pakistan handed over the request to Islamabad a few weeks ago, he said, adding that India has been flagging to Pakistan the activities of the LeT founder.

India, Hong Kong bust synthetic diamond trading syndicate; 8 held

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Indian Customs and its Hong Kong counterpart have unearthed a major case of Trade-Based Money Laundering (TBML) involving Hong Kong-based exporters and Indian importers with the arrest of eight persons. About $65 million was laundered by the syndicate through import of cheap synthetic diamonds falsely declared as natural diamonds.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had initially busted the racket involving import of cheap synthetic diamonds to a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in India for remitting foreign currency abroad.

According to the agency, investigations revealed that cheap synthetic diamonds were being misdeclared as natural diamonds, overvalued more than 100 times, and being imported from some firms based in Hong Kong to the SEZ in India.

A sample of the synthetic diamonds recovered by the Customs officials. PIB

The DRI also detected some instances of real diamonds being imported, replaced with synthetic diamonds, and smuggled outside the SEZ.

"The importing entity was also found to be exporting jewellery studded with diamonds at a very inflated value to Hong Kong and few other countries-...while most of the declared inflated value of imports was remitted out of the country through banking channels, the remittances received for exports was seen to be only marginal at around 0.2%, indicating that this trade has been a cover to launder money outside," it said.

Dummy firms

The inflow of money into the importing entity's bank account took place through bank transactions by various dummy companies in India and then the said money was transferred or laundered from that single bank account to overseas suppliers located in Hong Kong on the pretext of payment towards import of "diamonds".

Further investigations resulted in the arrest of four persons in India. The Indian Customs issued show-cause notices for the seized goods. The overseas firms refused to respond and present themselves before the Indian Customs.

The DRI, under the bilateral international cooperation tools and network, reached out to the Hong Kong Customs to inquire into the existence of the suspect firms.

Raids in Hong Kong

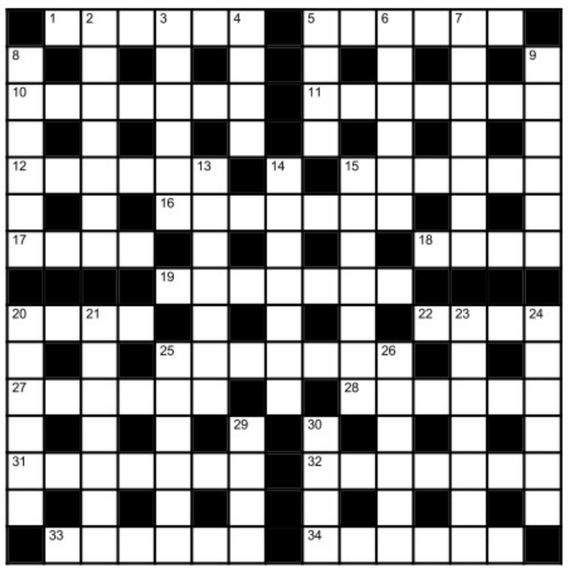
During the operation, the Hong Kong Customs raided eight premises there, including four residential premises and four commercial units. It arrested four suspects and initiated the process to freeze assets worth about $1 million held by them.

TH CROSSWORD + 14059

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Small and neat drinks, 500 left (6)
5 Unearth fragment of T.Rex humerus (6)
10 Senselessly Annie danced and lay exhausted (7)
11 Leader of Maldives is more modest, less hard and one who speaks softy but not clearly (7)
12 Had returned with half exposed blossom (6)
15 Champion's one in operating 'gear' on the ground (6)
16 Pet's frolicking around one with the tag (7)
17 Work's gone! Rent's gone! (4)
18 Where a sea bears calmness? (4)
19 Arab legend partly developed this subject (7)
20 Dead decay right away, turning into earth (4)
22 Supplies a right girl (4)
25 Immortal eagles flying around edge of skies (7)
27 Cross those left inside borders of Germany (6)
28 Tremble! Run! He is very evil! (6)
31 Last part of sex! Tremendous! (7)
32 First woman priest, also part seer (7)
33 A to Z and basics of English language baffling a fundamentalist (6)
34 Bird like crow or raven basically with very primitive subconsciousness (6)

Down

2 Oh! Naive nomadic Knight! (7)
3 Occasionally we help in long 3-D movie (6)
4 Toy timelessly, repeatedly bounces back (2-2)
5 A meme mostly about a novel (4)
6 Essentially the charm, you reportedly pulled out for a troubled prince (6)
7 State of fungi eggs (7)
8 Decorated soldier piloted over Germany (6)
9 Lord's claw almost clasps Herod's heart (6)
13 A swimming pool guy's vacuous defence (7)
14 Moor's suffering inside, too badly! (7)
15 She is partly sure about being a beneficiary (7)
20 New grid includes for example retrogressive word of miner (6)
21 Run and ruin (7)
23 Partly enchanted by oil in a pickle and pasta (7)
24 Band set to rule Europe and Korea initially (6)
25 A soft plea, perhaps (6)
26 Mackerel or some fish in Erie (6)
29 Good kind of doctor and a refined man (4)
30 Unending piece about Odyssey, say (4)

SUDOKU

				6		5	9	
6							8	4
	9	7	2					
1			5		2	4		
				9				
		2	8		4			1
					3	1	7	
3	7							6
	1	6		4				

No.SS6023 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

		I	T	S	A	P	L	E	A	S	U	R	E	
T		N		T		L		N		E		A		A
A	C	C	R	A			E	X	C	H	A	N	G	E	S
K		A		R		A		O		K		E		S
E	X	H	A	L	E	D		R	E	I	S	S	U	E
O		O		E		E		E		N				T
F	L	O	A	T	E	R	S		I	G	L	O	O	
F		T				S		R				M		A
	A	S	I	D	E			R	E	D	A	L	E	R	T
T				O		A		P		M		L		I
U	L	L	A	G	E	S		R	U	N	L	E	S	S
F		I		F		T		I		E		T		H
T	R	A	W	L	N	E	T	S		S	E	T	T	O
S		N		E		A		A		I		E		O
	P	A	R	A	L	L	E	L	B	A	R	S		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	9	1	5	4	2	3	7
2	3	1	9	7	8	4	5	6
7	5	4	3	2	6	1	9	8
3	1	5	6	4	7	8	2	9
6	7	2	8	3	9	5	1	4
9	4	8	2	1	5	6	7	3
5	2	6	7	8	3	9	4	1
1	8	7	4	9	2	3	6	5
4	9	3	5	6	1	7	8	2

FAITH

Vidhura Neethi

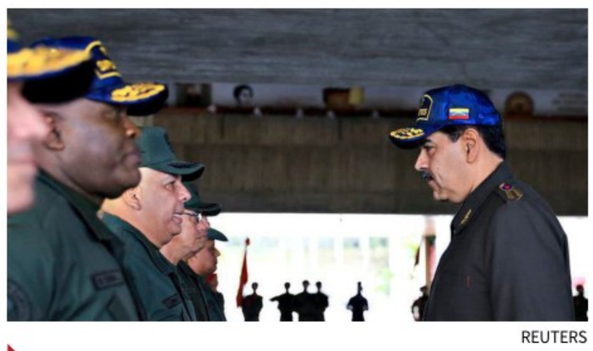
A morally regulated life will bring peace of mind, name, and fame. It is essential in a man's life. Saint Thiruvalluvar says one should guard discipline above life, which brings honour (*Ozhukkam Vizuppam tharalan*). Velukkudi Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that a person without discipline will plunge headlong into distress, agitated mind and sleeplessness.

When Dhritarashtra was restless without sleep and disturbed, he asked Vidhura the reason for this. He wanted Vidhura to tender saner advice. The reply of Vidhura is called "Vidhura Neethi". Vidhura listed out five reasons for sleeplessness: When a person of lesser strength picks up enmity and quarrels with a stronger one; If a person had lost all his means of instruments; A greedy personality and one who had been robbed of his wealth; One who becomes a subject of pleasures, love and affection (*Kamam*); and thieves may not have sleep. Vidhura asked Dhritarashtra whether he belonged to any of the above.

Whether we like it or not, we should heed the advice of people with wisdom. Dhritarashtra ignored the advice of Bhishma, Dronacharya and other good people who dinned into him to give Pandavas a share of the kingdom. On the other hand, Arjuna, who refused to indulge in war, followed the advice of Sri Krishna and changed his mind.

LONDON

Venezuelan military exercise near Guyana border 'unjustified': U.K.

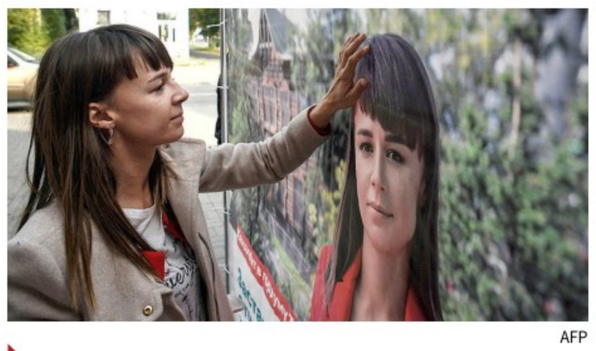


REUTERS

Britain condemned the "unjustified" actions of Venezuela after Caracas ordered troops to participate in a military drill near its border with Guyana in response to the U.K. sending a warship. Britain promised to send a warship to Guyana amid the country's dispute with Venezuela over the oil-rich Essequibo region. AFP

MOSCOW

Russian court sends Navalny ally Fadeyeva to prison for nine years



AFP

A Russian court sentenced 31-year-old Ksenia Fadeyeva, who led jailed Opposition leader Alexei Navalny's now-banned organisation in the Siberian city of Tomsk, to nine years in prison. She was elected to the Tomsk city legislature in 2020 but officials labelled her group an extremist organisation and detained her in 2021. AFP

WASHINGTON

SpaceX launches secretive U.S. spacecraft on research mission

AP

SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket blasted back into space on Thursday night to ferry the U.S. military's secretive X-37B drone for a research mission. The Pentagon, last month, said its experiments included "operating the reusable spaceplane in new orbital regimes and investigating the radiation effects on materials given by NASA". AFP

COLOMBO

New Indian envoy calls on Sri Lankan PM to discuss ties

TWITTER

India's new High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha called on Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and discussed a wide range of topics related to the multidimensional bilateral ties and facilitating more Indian investments in the island nation. Mr. Jha assumed charge as the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka last week. PTI

Israel bombs south Gaza as officials due in Cairo for talks

More than one lakh displaced people have arrived in the southern border city of Rafah; Israel's attacks have killed 41 people in Khan Younis over past two days; total death toll is now 21,507

Associated Press
GAZA STRIP

Israel pounded south and central Gaza on Friday as Egypt was to host a high-level Hamas delegation for talks to try and end the nearly 12-week war that has devastated the besieged Palestinian territory.

The Israeli military said its forces "are extending operation in Khan Younis" in the coastal territory's south, and had "eliminated dozens of terrorists" across Gaza over the past 24 hours.

Video footage showed smoke billowing over Rafah, near Egypt, following fresh strikes early Friday.

War continues: Israeli soldiers take up positions near the Gaza Strip border in southern Israel on Friday. AP

Israeli shelling near Al-Amal in Khan Younis killed 41 people over the past two days.

The casualties in repeated Israeli strikes near the facility include "displaced persons seeking shelter", it said.

The UN humanitarian office said an estimated 1,00,000 more displaced people had arrived in the already-teeming southern border city of Rafah in recent days following the intensification of fighting around Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis.

Israel's attacks have killed at least 21,507 people in Gaza..

Sources close to Hamas say Egypt's three-stage plan provides for renewable ceasefires, a staggered release of hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israel, and ultimately an end to the war.

On Friday, Israel's Army said a Palestinian rammed a car into people near a military post in the occupied West Bank, wounding four according to medics.

Trump blocked from Republican presidential primary in Maine

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. State of Maine on Thursday blocked former President Donald Trump from its Republican presidential primary ballot, the second State after Colorado to disqualify him over his role in the January 2021 assault on the U.S. Capitol.

Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, Maine's top election official, decided in favour of the citizens who claimed that Trump should be constitutionally barred from seeking re-election after trying to upend the 2020 election.

Ms. Bellows said in her decision that the January 6 attack "occurred at the behest of, and with the knowledge and support of, the outgoing President."

Donald Trump

"The U.S. Constitution does not tolerate an assault on the foundations of our government and (Maine law) requires me to act in response," read the decision. Maine joins Colorado, where the State Supreme Court this month found Trump ineligible for the presidency, moves that will certainly be challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ms. Bellows said she was suspending the effect of her decision pending any court appeal by Trump.

The decisions in both States invoked the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment, which bars from office anyone formerly sworn to protect the country who later engages in insurrection.

Later on Thursday, California's top election official declined to remove Trump from the presidential primary ballot in the most populous U.S. State, defying pressure from fellow Democrats.

Trump's campaign slammed Ms. Bellows's decision. "These partisan election interference efforts are a hostile assault on American democracy," campaign spokesman Steven Cheung said in a statement, accusing President Joe Biden and Democrats of "relying on the force of government institutions to protect their grip on power." Mr. Cheung said Trump would appeal the decision.

Fellow Republicans jumped to Trump's defence, including Florida Governor Ron DeSantis who is also seeking the party's nomination.

A Democratic representative from Maine, Jared Golden, also said Trump should be on the ballot.

"I voted to impeach Donald Trump for his role in the January 6th insurrection. I do not believe he should be re-elected as President of the United States," Golden wrote on X. "However, we are a nation of laws, therefore until he is actually found guilty of insurrection, he should be allowed on the ballot."

China names former Navy chief as new Defence Minister

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China named former Navy commander Dong Jun as its new Defence Minister on Friday, replacing a predecessor removed after just months as Beijing and Washington restart critical military-to-military talks.

Mr. Dong was appointed at a meeting of the standing committee of China's National People's Congress, state news agency Xinhua said.

Mr. Dong's promotion comes at a time when Beijing ups military pressure on the self-ruled island of Taiwan ahead of presidential elections next month and grows increasingly assertive in disputed waters in the South China Sea.

China and the U.S. are also in the process of re-establishing military lines of communication.

Beijing has not given an official reason for the removal of Li Shangfu, Mr. Dong's predecessor, who

Dong Jun

was ousted after seven months in the role following a lengthy disappearance from public view.

Mr. Dong, born in 1961, was made commander of the navy in August 2021.

He was replaced by Hu Zhongming earlier this month.

Mr. Dong previously served as deputy commander of the Southern Theater Command, which includes as its area of operation the South China Sea, where Beijing has territorial disputes with neighbouring countries.

122 missiles fired in Russia's biggest aerial barrage on Ukraine

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia launched 122 missiles and dozens of drones against Ukrainian targets, officials said on Friday, killing at least 24 civilians across the country in what an Air Force official said was the biggest aerial barrage of the war.

The Ukrainian Air Force intercepted most of the ballistic and cruise missiles and the Shahed-type drones overnight, said Ukraine's military chief, Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

Air Force commander Mykola Oleshchuk said that it was "the most massive aerial attack" since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

According to the Ukrainian Air Force, the previous biggest assault was in November 2022 when Russia launched 96 missiles against Ukraine. This year, the biggest was 81 missiles on March 9, Air Force records show.

Poland says Russian missile passed through its airspace entering from and then back to Ukraine

Meanwhile, a Russian missile passed through Polish airspace on Friday, entering from and then back into Ukraine, the Polish Army said, as Russia pummelled Ukraine with one of the biggest air attacks of the war.

'Missile trespassing'

"Everything indicates that a Russian missile entered Polish airspace... It also left our airspace," said General Wieslaw Kukula, chief of the general staff of the Polish armed forces.

"We have national and allied radar confirmation," he told reporters.

The missile was in Polish airspace for three minutes, said Maciej Klisz, operational commander of the Polish Army.

Javier Milei writes to BRICS leaders, rejects invite for Argentina to join the grouping

Agence France-Presse
BUENOS AIRES

Argentine President Javier Milei has sent letters to BRICS leaders to formalise his decision to reject an invitation to join the grouping of major emerging economies, the presidency said on Friday.

The bloc – made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – in August announced it was admitting six new members in a bid to counter the Western-led global order.

The membership of Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates was due to take effect from January 1, 2024.

'Unsuited time'

The letters signed by Mr. Milei and published by several media houses said Argentina's membership was "not considered appropriate at this time."

The libertarian outsider Mr. Milei took office this month after his resounding defeat of Argentina's traditional political parties, and he had vowed on the campaign trail not to join BRICS.

In his letters he said his foreign policy "differs in many aspects from that of the previous government. In this sense, some decisions made by the previous administration will be reviewed."

During his election campaign, Mr. Milei said "our geopolitical alignment is with the United States and Israel. We are not going to ally with communists."

THE HINDU GROUP
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Scan the code or visit https://sstar.news/Aces2024 to cast your vote on or before January 24, 2024.
SPORTSTAR ACES 2024
INDIA TRIUMPHS
#SSaces2024

INBRIEF

In fresh record, ITR filings for AY2023-24 surpass 8 crore

The number of Income Tax returns (ITRs) filed for this assessment year (AY2023-24) has crossed the eight-crore mark, reflecting a new record in Income Tax filings and a 6.44% rise over the returns filed for AY2022-23. The number of IT returns filed for this year stood at 7.65 crore by October 31, which was already higher than the 7.51 crore returns filed during AY2022-23. The total ITRs filed for all assessment years also hit an all-time high of 7.85 crore by the end of October.

States, UTs to borrow ₹4,13,452 crore in Q4

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories (UTs), on Friday announced the quantum of total market borrowings by the State Governments and UTs for the quarter January - March 2024, would be to the tune of ₹4,13,452 crore. The central bank has also announced the auction of Government of India Treasury Bills worth ₹3,93,000 for the Central government during this period.

DRL buys 6.46% stake in Israel biotech firm Edity for $2 mn

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) has bought 6.46% stake in Edity Therapeutics, a development stage biotech firm in Israel focused on a breakthrough platform technology for intracellular delivery of therapeutic proteins utilising immune cells. The acquisition, through step-down subsidiary Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Inc., was by way of conversion of SAFE (Simple Agreement for Future Equity) investment of $2 million to Preferred A-1 Shares.

Core sectors' growth skids to 6-month low in November

Overall output levels were at their lowest since March 2023; cement output contracts to 13-month low, steel growth also at 13-month low; refinery products and coal are only sectors to see a month-on-month uptick, with double-digit y-o-y growth

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Output from India's eight core sectors grew at a six-month low pace of 7.8% in November, compared to 12% in October, with cement recording its first contraction this year and production slipping to the lowest level in 13 months.

The Index of Core Industries (ICI) was down 3.34% from October levels, and stood at 150.3, its lowest level since March 2023. Refinery products and coal were the only sectors to see a month-on-month uptick. These were also the only sectors to record a double-digit year-on-year growth, compared to October, when four sectors grew more than 10%.

Slowing core

Output from eight core sectors grew 7.8% in November compared with 12% in October

- Crude oil slipped back into contraction in Nov., sliding 0.4%
- Fertilizer output grew 3.4%, the slowest in 3 months
- Natural gas output growth slowed to 7.6%

- Power generation growth slowed to 5-month low of 5.6% in November

Steel production also rose at a 13-month low pace of 9.1%, while crude oil slipped back into contraction in November, declining 0.4%. Fertiliser production grew 3.4%, the slowest in three months, while natural gas output growth slowed to 7.6%.

Refinery products surge

Refinery products grew at the highest pace in 17 months at 12.4%, while coal output grew 10.9%, marking the slowest rise in five months. Growth in electricity generation slowed from 20.3% in October to a five-month low of 5.6% in November, with absolute output at the lowest point since March 2023.

In November 2022, core sectors had grown 5.7%. Base effects from last November, when cement production grew 29.1%, affected this November's print along with a slowdown in housing, suggested Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis. The Slowdown in fertiliser growth was on expected lines as rabi sowing comes to and end, he added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	72,240	-0.23
US Dollar	83.16	0.05
Brent oil	77.44	-1.48

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2848.95	39.05
Adani Ports	1024.35	7.40
Apollo Hosp	5704.10	-56.40
Asian Paints	3402.40	5.15
Axis Bank	1102.30	-5.55
Bajaj Auto	6797.25	93.95
Bajaj Finserv	1685.80	4.60
Bajaj Finance	7327.75	69.10
Bharti Airtel	1032.20	-4.50
BPCL	450.65	-15.15
Britannia Ind	5338.45	56.45
Cipla	1246.30	-14.50
Coal India	376.00	-4.95
Divis Lab	3903.90	-36.05
Dr Reddys Lab	5797.90	-60.65
Eicher Motors	4143.50	51.60
Grasim Ind	2134.80	-5.15
HCL Tech	1466.10	-6.35
HDFC Bank	1709.25	4.00
HDFC Life	646.70	-1.40
Hero MotoCorp	4139.55	-33.70
Hindalco	614.85	0.55
Hind Unilever	2663.95	30.15
ICICI Bank	996.60	-9.30
IndusInd Bank	1598.95	-11.60
Infosys	1542.90	-19.75
ITC	462.10	-2.00
JSW Steel	880.25	-0.55
Kotak Bank	1908.10	-13.25
L&T	3526.00	7.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6294.95	41.80
M&M	1729.40	-5.05
Maruti Suzuki	10302.35	30.75
NestleIndia	26580.30	330.40
NTPC	311.15	-2.75
ONGC	205.05	-3.25
PowerGrid Corp	237.20	-1.90
Reliance Ind	2584.95	-20.60
SBI Life	1432.60	-2.70
State Bank	642.05	-9.35
Sun Pharma	1259.45	-2.70
TataConsumerProduct	1086.80	45.80
Tata Motors	779.95	26.05
Tata Steel	139.60	1.45
TCS	3793.40	-6.50
Tech Mahindra	1272.65	-13.30
Titan	3675.45	-39.65
UltraTech Cement	10503.05	76.75
UPL	587.25	-2.20
Wipro	471.30	1.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.01	83.33
Euro	91.85	92.21
British Pound	105.69	106.11
Japanese Yen (100)	58.58	58.81
Chinese Yuan	11.70	11.75
Swiss Franc	99.10	99.49
Singapore Dollar	62.88	63.14
Canadian Dollar	62.63	62.88
Malaysian Ringitt	18.08	18.18
Australian Dollar	56.47	56.70

Source:Indian Bank

'Jobs back to pre-COVID level, not alone in food price rise, FDI worries'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's labour markets have recovered to pre-pandemic levels, declining FDI inflows are expected to rebound and economic activity, that has been robust through October and November, is likely to remain strong in Q4 of 2023-24, the Finance Ministry said.

Foreign investment inflows are helping Indian stock market indices climb new heights, and reflect broad-based optimism among investors on India's growth prospects, the Ministry said in its half-yearly economic review that factors in November's developments.

"Risks to growth and stability outlook mainly emanate from outside the country. Nonetheless, the Indian economy is expected to comfortably achieve a growth rate upwards of 6.5% in 2023-24," the Ministry asserted. Real GDP grew 7.7% in the first half of the year and the Reserve Bank of India has revised its 2023-24 growth projection to 7% from 6.5%.

Downside risks

Among downside risks to India's growth, the Ministry identified 'smouldering inflationary pressures in advanced countries and supply-chain disruptions re-emerging from persistent geopolitical stress,' terming geopolitics 'an independent source of risk.'

On gross FDI inflows which dropped 15.9% in the first half of the year, with equity flows dropping 23.4%, the ministry said the dip is not due to moderation in equity inflows but due to a rise in repatriation, which is being seen in other emerging market economies as well, including China, adding that while relatively high food inflation is a concern, it is a global phenomenon.

India Apr.-Nov. fiscal deficit at 51% of FY24 estimate: data

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's fiscal deficit for the first eight months of the financial year that began April 1 was ₹9.07 trillion ($109.06 billion), or 50.7% of the estimate for the whole year, government data showed on Friday.

Government capital expenditure, or spending on building physical infrastructure, stood at ₹5.86 trillion, or 58.5% of the annual target, higher than ₹4.47 trillion a year earlier.

RBI gives more time for loan penal charge norms

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the timeline for the implementation of fair lending practice by banks on penal charges in loan accounts by three months. The instructions were to come into effect from January 1.

"However, considering that certain clarifications and additional time has been sought by some regulated entities (REs) to reconfigure their internal systems and operationalise the circular, it has been decided to extend the timeline for implementation of the instructions by three months," the RBI said.

Reduce fuel prices gradually, say dealers

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

A body of petroleum dealers has appealed to the Prime Minister and State-owned oil refining and marketing firms to refrain from abrupt reduction in petrol and diesel prices.

Favouring a phased reduction, the Consortium of Indian Petroleum Dealers (CIPD) cited the "substantial financial setback" the trade suffered when fuel prices were slashed in November 2021 and May 2022 due to excise duty reduction. "Additionally, our dealer commission has not been revised for several years, further exacerbating our financial challenges," President Uday Lodh and General Secretary K.Suresh Kumar said.

In its letter to the oil marketing firms , the CIPD said "implement significant reductions as this approach will facilitate a smoother transition for dealers, minimising financial losses and aiding in business sustainability." It also wanted the OMCs to reimburse losses incurred due to reductions beyond the net dealer margin.

'Non residents net claims on India rise a tad to $381 bn'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The net claims of non-residents on India rose marginally by $1.4 billion during Q2:2023-24 to $380.9 billion in September 2023 from $379.5 billion in the previous quarter but slid $5.6 billion from $386.5 billion in the year-earlier period as per the India's International Investment Position data released by the Reserve Bank of India.

Foreign-owned financial assets in India recorded a higher rise ($7.4 billion) vis-a-vis Indian residents' overseas financial assets ($6 billion), which led to the rise in net claims of non-residents, data shows.

Government of Karnataka
Department of Public Libraries
The Office of Chief Librarian District Central Library, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Reading Centre N.G.O. Colony Kinnal Road, Koppal
Email-granthalaya058@gmail.com Contact No-7795474575 Date : 29-12-2023

TENDER INVITING NOTIFICATION FOR PROCUREMENT OF SYLLABUS AND NON-SYLLABUS BOOKS

Under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act-1999-2000, Tender has been invited from the authorized firms to procure and supply of syllabus and non-syllabus books to the following colleges in Koppal district. Tenders must submit duly filled tender documents in **two sets** clearly indicating 'ORIGINAL AND 'COPY' separately to Tender No 1 and 2.

Tender No: 1) ಜ.ಕೆ.ಗ್ರಂಕೊ/ಸ.ಪ್ರಕಾ/ಕೊ/ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ/2022–23
15 First Grade Government Degree Collages in Koppal
1) KKKD Mega-Macro Scheme : **SCP.** Amount Approved for the Estimation (in Rs.) : **₹ 1781129/-.**
2) KKKD Mega-Macro Scheme : **TSP.** Amount Approved for the Estimation (in Rs.) : **₹ 395858/-**
3) KKKD Mega-Macro Scheme : **General.** Amount Approved for the Estimation (in Rs.) : **₹ 7717958/-** Total Amount : **₹ 9894945/-.** E.M.D. in Rs. : **₹ 247374/-**
Tender No : 2) ಜ.ಕೆ.ಗ್ರಂಕೊ/ಸಪಾಕಾ/ಸಯಂಕಾ/ಕೊ/ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ/2022–23
4-Polytchnic and 2- Engineering Collages in Koppal
1) KKKD Mega-Macro Scheme : **SCP.** Amount Approved for the Estimation (in Rs.) : **₹ 1265053/-.**
2) KKKD Mega-Macro Scheme : **TSP.** Amount Approved for the Estimation (in Rs.) : **₹ 402985/-**
3) KKKD Mega-Macro Scheme : **General.** Amount Approved for the Estimation (in Rs.) : **₹ 3601962/-** Total Amount : **₹ 5270000/-.** E.M.D. in Rs. : **131750/-**
The tender documents and detailed information for tenderers are available in the website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in . 1)The Tender Notification Date : **29-12-2023.** 2) The Date for Downloading the Tender Documents: **30-12-2023.** 3) The Last Date for Submission of Objections: **03-01-2024 at 4:00 PM.** 4) The Last Date for Submission of the Tender: **12-01-2024 at 4:00 PM.** 5) Opening of Technical Bid: **16-01-2024 at 11:00 AM** (Contractors qualified in technical bid) 6) Opening of Financial Bid : **18-01-2024 at 11: 00 AM.** The tender inviting authority holds the rights to accept or reject the tender (if such situation arises). The above office can be contacted for any infor mation and it will be notified through the website, if any modifications in the tender.

Sd/- **Chief Librarian**
District Central Library
Koppal

DIPR/KOPPAL/310/2023-24/DESHPANDE PUBLICITY

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE (W&M)/HSN/EE (O)/DCA/AEE-2/WT-42/2023-24/5618-21 Dated: 28.12.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation limited invites bids on Electronic mode for following works.

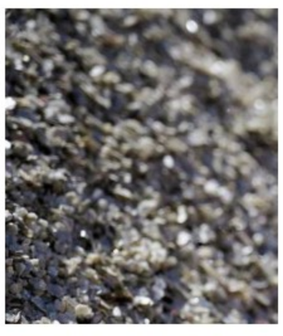
Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2023-24/06.
Work indent No. KPTCL/2023-24/TL/WORK_INDENT448.
Nomenclature: The work of Shifting 220 kV Chikkamagaluru Receiving station load from 220kV M2 to 220kV M1 Line, which is transmitting from 220 kV MRS Shimogga to Hassan (PGCIL) line by duly providing one number of 220kV MC tower, one number of 220kV DC tower and dismantling two numbers of existing 220kV DC towers in the existing 220kV M1 and M2 corridor near Javagal village limits in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka State on Total Turnkey Basis including Supply of all Materials/Equipments and Erection (including Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e procurement kptcl" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on** or **after 11.00 AM on 01.01.2024.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elec., Transmission (W&M) Circle, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepet, B.M. Road, KPTCL, Hassan-573 201. Ph: 08172-250765 Fax: 08172-250764.

India closing in on lithium deal with Argentina, tapping Australia, Chile

Abhishek Law
NEW DELHI



The Mines Ministry, through the state-owned Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL), has entered into a draft exploration and development agreement with Argentinan miner CAMYEN for possible acquisition and development of five-odd lithium blocks.

The company has also entered into a non-disclosure agreement with Chilean miner ENAMI for 'possible exploration, extraction, processing and commecialisation' of the mineral and appointed consultancy major PwC for identification of investable projects in Australia.

Incidentally, Latin American nations, primarily Chile and Argentina, account for 30-35% of the world's supplies. Chile, with 11% of the world's lithium reserves, supplies 26% of the requirements; while Argentina with nearly a fifth of the global reserves supplies about 6%-odd. Australia is among the other large producers globally.

Talks are in 'advanced stages' for acquisition of lithium blocks in Argentina. The reported cost of the acquisition in Argentina could run into a 'couple of hundred crore' and the proposal would be put up for Cabinet approval.

Ministry officials said the KABIL board had approved the 'Draft Exploration and Development Agreement' and a proposal for opening of a branch office in Catamarca, Argentina was subsequently cleared by the Ministry.

"Mines Ministry has given necessary approval to KABIL for entering in to the agreement (with CAMYEN)," the officials told *The Hindu businessline.*

Intensifies search

India has over the last one year intensified its search for critical mineral, including lithium. The alkaline mineral, also called 'white gold', is a cornerstone in India's switch to green energy thereby reducing its carbon footprint.

Right now, India has put up just lithium blocks for auction – one in J&K and another in Chhattisgarh – with most of its domestic requirements being met through imports. The Import bill is pegged at about ₹24,000 crore.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department)
Karnataka Maritime Board
Office of the Executive Engineer, Port & Fisheries Division, 'Shamil Hall' 2nd floor, Ambalapady, Udupi-576103
Tel No: 0820-2532961, Fax No: 0820-2532961, Email: pfdudupi@gmail.com

No:EE: P&F: DVN: Udupi:AE:Tender Notification-01/2023-24: Dt.:28-12-2023

Invitation for tenders (IFT) Two cover system
Tender Notification (2nd Call)
(Two Document System)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tender is invited in E-Procurement to execute below mentioned works. To participate in E-Procurement and for more information may be obtained in (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) website. For further Extension refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.

Sl. No	Name of work and Indent Number	Amount Put to Tender	Earnest Money Deposit(EMD Amount)	Last Date for quarries	Date of receipt of Tender
1.	Development & Upgradation of Fish seed Production Farms in B.R Project and Gajanur in Shimoga District	Rs. 21,22,86,581.16	Rs.21.23 lakhs (Rs.1.00 Lakh E-payment+ Rs.20.23 lakh as mentioned in bid document)	05.01.2024 at 16.00hour	06.01.2024 at 17.00hour
2.	Establishment of New Fish Farm at Alamatti Dam in Vijayapura District	Rs.10,62,02,329.21	Rs.15.00 lakhs (Rs.1.00 Lakh E-payment+ Rs.14.00 lakh as mentioned in bid document)	05.01.2024 at 16.00hour	06.01.2024 at 17.00hour

Executive Engineer, Port & Fisheries Division, Udupi

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **Sri. Ramanath.V. Naik** S/o Sri **Venkataramana L.Naik,** aged about 46 Years R/at No.9, 9th Main Road, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru- 560079 is intendig to purchase the below mentioned schedule property belonging to Smt. **M.Shanthi** W/o **M.Raja** aged about 63 **years & M. Raja** aged about 66 years S/o **Late A.Murthy,** Resident of No.4, 5th Cross, Netravathi Road, Maruthi Nagara, Chandra Layout, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru- 560072, having title to the property concerned as per the documents verified. Any person/s, have any right, title interest/ claims or possession over the Schedule property can file their objections in writing with documentary proof to the above mentioned address, within Seven (7) days from the date of this publication. which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to the Schedule property. The claims and objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and thereafter my client shall proceed to purchase the Schedule property as if there are no claimants/ objections to the schedule property.

Schedule Property:

All that piece and parcel of the residential house property bearing Municipal No.4, PID NO.40-180-4, 5th Cross, Maruthi Nagara, Bengaluru. BBMP Ward No.(40) 132, formed in Sy. No.48/8, 43/A, Nagarabhavi, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring East to West: 45 feet, North to South: 20feet, totally measuring 900 Square feet, bounded on the:

East by: Private Property
West by: Road
North by: Property No.43
South by: Property No.43/B

JAYAPRAKASH.B (Advocate)
No.4, 2nd Main,2nd Cross, Govindarajanagara, Bengaluru- 560040
Mobile: 9448543146/ 9448411484

TAKEAWAY

Pakistan played better cricket than Australia: team director Hafeez

AFP

Despite succumbing to a 79-run series-losing defeat to Australia on Friday in the second Test in Melbourne, Pakistan team director Mohammed Hafeez said his side played better than the Aussies. "We played better cricket as a team. I'm proud of that. The way the team had the courage to attack in the best possible way," he said.

ACTION PACKED

Odisha routs Jamshedpur; NorthEast holds high-flying Goa

AIFF

Odisha FC defeated Jamshedpur FC 4-1 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Friday. Meanwhile, NorthEast United FC held FC Goa 1-1 at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati.
The results: OFC 4 (Isak 27, Krishna 36, 45+3, Mauricio 45+2) bt JFC 1 (Tachikawa 23); NEUFC 1 (Subran 26) drew with FCG 1 (Martínez 20).

STELLAR DISPLAY

Manjeet and Krishan shine as Pirates defeat Steelers

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Patna Pirates' stellar all-round performance led the three-time champion to a comfortable 46-33 victory over Haryana Steelers in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 match at the Noida Indoor Stadium on Friday. In another match, UP Yoddhas pipped Bengaluru Bulls 34-33.

DOMINANT SHOW

Gujarat Giants posts big win over Telugu Yoddhas

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gujarat Giants registered a massive 41-24 win over Telugu Yoddhas in the ongoing Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2, in Cuttack on Friday. Sanket Kadam shone for the winning side as he notched up 12 points. Chennai Quick Guns defeated Rajasthan Warriors 31-27 in the other match of the day.

India's capitulation was worryingly swift

The difference between the lead cast and the supporting one in the visiting side was big in both the batting and bowling departments

Lone ranger: The Indian bowlers, with the exception of Bumrah, failed in helpful conditions. PTI

INDIA IN SOUTH AFRICA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CENTURION

A little after India collapsed spectacularly to give South Africa an innings win in the First Test at the SuperSport Park on Thursday, the blue sky turned grey, then dark, and then it opened up. The rain was heavy, the wind strong.

Bad timing, the Indian fans – there were many of them – would have accused the rain of. But, it would have taken a deluge for India to save the Test: another two days still remained.

A Test match finishing well ahead of schedule is no rarity in these times of more aggressive style – including Bazball – influenced by white-ball cricket and the steady decline of grafters. Still, India's capitulation was worryingly swift. Its second innings lasted just 34.1 overs. It has to be one of India's weakest batting displays since the debacle in the Adelaide Test three years ago, when it was bowled out by Australia for 36 in the second innings.

It would be unfair to put all the blame on the batters, though. The bowlers didn't exactly crown themselves in glory. Yes, they were up against a man who was determined to play the innings of his life: Dean Elgar looked like an immovable object, and this time an object that was very easy on the eye.

But the bowlers – with the glorious exception of Jasprit Bumrah – were a bit too generous to him, as well as debutant David Bedingham and Marco Jansen. It was his century partnerships with them that made South Africa's lead a little too uncomfortable for the visitors.

To be fair, India had begun the match with a big handicap. Its best bowler at the World Cup, Mohammed Shami, couldn't join the squad. He would have relished the wicket and the conditions here.

He was replaced by debutant Prasidh Krishna. The Karnataka seamer, who had played only 12 First Class matches before, could not replicate his excellent show (a five-wicket haul with a hat-trick) in India-A's recent match against South Africa-A at Potchefstroom.

Prasidh struggled with his length; so did Shardul Thakur. Mohammed Siraj fared better, while Bumrah, who hasn't played Test cricket in about a year and a half, was brilliant.

The difference between the lead cast and the supporting one was as big in the batting department, too. Two of India's best batters equipped for overseas tours like this, Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul, showed their class yet again.

Rahul's 101 off 137 balls was arguably one of the best Test innings by an Indian batter in recent times, while Kohli's 76 off 82 balls in the second was a lone battle, with Shubman Gill being the only other to get into double figures.

For all his undeniable gift and compelling style, Gill has to show consistency in SENA countries. The young Yashasvi Jaiswal and the more experienced Shreyas Iyer too have their tasks cut out, while skipper Rohit Sharma will have to find a way to deal with Kagiso Rabada.

Jadeja likely to be available for Cape Town Test

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CENTURION

Ravindra Jadeja could well be available for India's second Test against South Africa, starting on January 3. The left-arm spinning all-rounder had been ruled out of the opening Test here after complaining of upper back spasm on the morning of the first day.

Jadeja seems to be getting better. He bowled a few balls at the SuperSport Park during the break on Thursday, the third - and what proved to be the final - day of the first Test, in which India crashed to a defeat by an innings and 32 runs.

Given that he was in no obvious discomfort while he trained and bowled, he should be available for selection for the Cape Town Test, which India needs to win if it wants to square the two-match series.

Meanwhile, Avesh Khan has been added to the Test squad, as a replacement for Mohammed Shami, who had to pull out of the team at the last time, having failed to recover from an ankle injury.

Jadeja. PTI

The squad: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, K.S. Bharat, Abhimanyu Easwaran and Avesh Khan.

India docked two WTC points

Sports Bureau
CENTURION

To add insult to injury, India has been docked two World Test Championship points by the ICC.

The Indians fell two overs short against South Africa in the first Test, which finished two days ahead of time, with the visitors going down by an innings and 32 runs, at the SuperSport Park here on Thursday.

India has also been fined 10% of its match fees. The fine was imposed by the Match Referee Chris Broad after India was found to have bowled two overs less than the target.

The loss of the two points has worsened India's standing for the World Test Championship. If the two points had not been deducted, India should have been fifth on the table, but now it is sixth, with 14 points (38.89%).

South Africa, playing its first match in this cycle of the World Test Championship, is on top of the table with 100%, followed by New Zealand (50), Australia (50), Bangladesh (50), Pakistan (45.83), India (38.89), West Indies (16.67), England (15) and Sri Lanka (0).

India will want to start fresh against confident Australia

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Lavanya L
MUMBAI

India may be hosting Australia in a multi-format tour here this month, but it was the visitors that looked thoroughly at home in its six-wicket win over India at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday. The seven-time world champion shook off the heartache of the Test loss with an all-round showing against India, which came second best despite registering its highest total against this opponent.

The Women in Blue missed the services of Smriti Mandhana due to illness. Shafali Verma looked patchy at best during her short stay at the crease with her inability to land a shot clean proving to be her undoing as she was bowled by Darcie Brown. Harmanpreet Kaur and Richa Ghosh too could not capitalise on starts, finding themselves back in the hunt in quick succession. It took an unwell Jemimah Rodrigues to partner Yastika Bhatia and small partnerships between Jemimah and Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana and Pooja Vastrakar to give the Indian innings some bulk against a star-studded Aussie lineup.

'Control+alt+delete'

Fielding coach Munish Bali suggested that the team should 'control+alt+delete' the first game and start fresh in the second ODI on Saturday.

That might be easier said than done. India had its moments on the field, but those were far and few. Boundaries were permitted too easily, plenty of misfields dotted good overs and in all, no scoring pressure was applied on the Australians who sealed the game with 21 balls to spare. The side showed marked improvements in the field during the two red ball fixtures against England and Australia, and will hope to channel the same energy in the white-ball fixtures that remain.

Australia was able to restrict batting partnerships to a large extent with Yastika, Jemimah and Pooja managing most resistance. Ashleigh Gardner and Georgia Wareham were the pick of the bowlers with two wickets each but almost every other Aussie bowler found success against the Indians.

Jemimah has had a brilliant 2023 so far with 796 international runs and will want to add to that tally in the side's last game of the year.

Aussie vice-captain Tahlia McGrath is in the middle of a similar purple patch, scoring fifties in every batting innings against India so far in the tour. Both will hope to continue in the same vein.

Silver lining: Pooja's all-round show will boost India's confidence going into the second ODI.
EMMANUAL YOGINI

Nihal, Arjun among seven leaders; Harika tied second

WORLD BLITZ CHESS

Rakesh Rao

Showing tremendous tenacity, Nihal Sarin saved a draw against fellow-leader Magnus Carlsen and Arjun Erigaisi joined them at 8.5 points by beating Rauf Mamedov to be part of the seven-player leaders' group after 11 rounds of the World blitz chess championship in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) on Friday.

Nihal was also the only one to beat third seed Vladislav Artemiev – leader for all but one round – Artemiev, who scored his sixth straight victory at the expense of R. Praggnanandhaa before holding Carlsen, Daniil Dubov and Ian Nepomniachtchi on the trot, met his match in Nihal. The young Indian produced a flawless performance with white pieces to win in 53 moves, knock the Russian off the pedestal, and share the lead after 10 rounds.

Arjun won the last four rounds, like he did between rounds three and six, to underline his reputation of being the dark horse in this format.

Harika shares second spot

In the 17-round women's section, 12th seed D. Harika shared the second spot after nine rounds. She lost the second round to Kazakshtan's Alua Nurmanova, won the next five rounds and held leader Valentina Gunina in the eighth round to snap her seven-round winning sequence. She drew with sixth-seed Aleksandra Goryachkina for a tally of seven points.

Rakshitta Ravi was India's performer of the day. Seeded a distant 57, Rakshitta scored over higher seeds R. Vaishali, Elina Danielian (Armenia), Mariya Muzychuk (Ukraine), Irina Krush (USA) and drew with K. Humpy to tally 5.5 points.

Indians' standing (day one):

Open (after 11 rounds): 6-7. Nihal Sarin, Arjun Erigaisi (8.5 each), 13. R. Praggnanandhaa (7.5), 19. S. L. Narayanan (7.5), 25. Vidit Gujrathi (7.5), 31. Bharath Subramaniyam (7), 36. D. Gukesh (7), 45. Aravindh Chithambaram (6.5), 48-49. B. Adhiban, Raunak Sadhwani (6.5 each), 68. M. Pranesh (6), 78. Karthik Venkataraman (6), 93. Mitrabha Guha (5.5), 105. Aditya Mittal (5.5), 114. Surya Shekhar Ganguly (5.5).

Women (after nine rounds): 3. D. Harika (7), 13. Divya Deshmukh (6), 24. N. Priyanka (6), 28. Rakshitta Ravi (5.5), 31. K. Humpy (5.5), 41. R. Vaishali (5), 68-69. B. Savitha Shri, V. Sarayu (4 each), 73. M. Varshini Sahithi (4), 77. Padmini Rout (4), 83. Soumya Swaminathan (4).

Cummins the chief destroyer as Australia seals series after an absorbing contest

PAKISTAN IN AUS

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

A fired-up Pat Cummins bagged five wickets and 10 in the match to earn Australia a nail-biting 79-run win in the second Test and clinched the series against a battling Pakistan on Friday.

Set 317 for victory, the visitor put up a stellar fight as it chased its first Test triumph in Australia since 1995.

But it was dismissed for 237, with the last five wickets falling for 18 runs.

Cummins was the chief destroyer, taking five for 49 to go with his first innings five for 48 – only the second 10-wicket haul of his Test career.

Mitchell Starc chipped in with four for 55 as the tail collapsed after Shan Masood (60), Agha Salman (50) and Babar Azam (41) gave them a fighting chance.

It was always going to be a tough task, with the highest-ever successful fourth innings run chase at the Melbourne Cricket Ground the 332 for seven England managed in 1928, with no other team getting past 300.

The host was all out in its second innings for 262, after resuming on 187 for six. Mir Hamza was the pick of the bowlers with four for 32, while Shaheen Shah Afridi took four for 76.

The scores: Australia 318 & 262 in 84.1 overs (Steve Smith 50, Mitchell Marsh 96, Alex Carey 53, Shaheen Afridi 4/76, Mir Hamza 4/32) bt Pakistan 264 & 237 in 67.2 overs (Shan Masood 60, Babar Azam 41, Agha Salman 50, Mitchell Starc 4/55, Pat Cummins 5/49). **PoM:** Cummins.

Australia won by 79 runs to lead the three-match series 2-0.

Big-match player: Cummins took 10 wickets, five in each innings, to clinch the game and the series. AFP

INBRIEF

Britain and Spain register 2-1 wins over Australia and Brazil

Britain eased to victory over host Australia in their United Cup opener in Perth on Friday with Cameron Norrie defeating Alex de Minaur 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(2). Earlier Beatriz Haddad Maia got her season off to a winning start, but it was not enough to prevent Brazil losing 2-1 to Spain.

The results: Britain bt Australia 2-1 (Cameron Norrie bt Alex de Minaur 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(2); Katie Boulter bt Ajla Tomljanovic 6-2, 6-4; Boulter & Neal Skupski lost to Storm Hunter & Matthew Ebden 3-6, 6-7(5)). **Spain bt Brazil 2-1** (Alejandro Davidovich Fokina bt Thiago Seyboth Wild 6-4, 6-0; Sorribes Tormo lost to Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-7(1), 2-6; Fokina & Tormo bt Maia & Marcelo Melo 6-4, 7-5).

New Zealand-Bangladesh second T20I abandoned

Heavy rain forced the second of three Twenty20 internationals between host New Zealand and Bangladesh to be called off, with the home team on 72 for two after 11 overs, at Mount Maunganui on Friday. Having put the Black Caps into bat, Bangladesh struck early when Finn Allen was caught in the second over. Tim Seifert smashed 43 off 23 balls before being caught to end his second-wicket partnership of 49 with Daryl Mitchell before rain started to fall. Bangladesh leads the three-match series 1-0.

Klopp expects to maintain title bid without Salah

Jurgen Klopp is adamant Liverpool will be able to maintain its Premier League title charge despite the imminent loss of Mohamed Salah to African Cup of Nations duty. "It is not the first time, it is a really at least very average situation that you lose your goalscorer but we had it even worse in the past when Sadio (Mane) and Mo left," Klopp told reporters on Friday.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9 a.m.
India Women vs Australia Women: 2nd ODI, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.
Ultimate Kho-Kho: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 8.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards

West Ham upends Arsenal's push for top spot

Soucek and Mavropanos on target for the Hammers; Tottenham loses a thriller away to an inspired Brighton

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Arsenal missed out on the chance to return to the Premier League summit on Thursday, losing 2-0 to West Ham as Tottenham went down in a six-goal thriller at Brighton.

Mikel Arteta's Gunners were top of the tree at Christmas for a second successive year but trail leader Liverpool by two points at the halfway point of the season.

Arsenal, last year's runners-up, dominated possession but lacked a cutting edge against the disciplined visitors, for whom Tomas Soucek and Konstantinos Mavropanos scored the goals.

Soucek opened the scoring from close range in the 13th minute following a pass from Jarrod Bowen, with the goal confirmed after a lengthy VAR check looking into whether the ball had gone out of play.

Bullet header: Mavropanos rises high amid Arsenal's pressure to nod home West Ham's second. GETTY IMAGES

Arsenal surged forward in waves and West Ham goalkeeper Alphonse Areola made a reaction save from a Bukayo Saka header on the half-hour.

The England winger hit the post from a tight angle as the clock ticked down towards half-time but Arsenal trailed at the break despite enjoying nearly three-quarters of possession.

The Gunners came out determined to find a response but instead they found thelves 2-0 down when Mavropanos's bullet header cannoned in off the crossbar from James Ward-Prowse's corner.

Defeat leaves the Gunners in second place on 40 points, one clear of Aston Villa and three ahead of Manchester City, which has a game in hand.

Tottenham, this season's early pacesetters, remains in fifth spot after losing 4-2 despite threatening an astonishing comeback from 4-0 down against Roberto De Zerbi's Brighton.

Spurs, on a run of three straight league wins, looked sharp from the kick-off, putting Brighton under immediate pressure but the home side settled quickly and started stroking the ball around.

Fine save

Spurs goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario made a fine early save to keep out a firmly struck side-footed shot from Danny Welbeck from just outside the six-yard box, leaving the forward smiling in disbelief.

But Brighton was ahead minutes later when Jack Hinshelwood finished with brutal power following a weaving run from Joao Pedro along the edge of the penalty area.

The home side doubled its lead from the penalty spot in the 23rd minute through Pedro, who took full advantage after Dejan Kulusevski was penalised for a pull on Welbeck.

Pervis Estupinan stretched the lead with a thunderbolt from 30 yards in the 63rd minute and Pedro scored a second penalty in the 75th minute.

Alejo Veliz grabbed what appeared to be a consolation goal in the 81st minute but it galvanised the visitors.

Ben Davies headed home Pedro Porro's deep cross as Spurs threatened to cut through every time they poured forward, with Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg hitting the post during nine minutes of stoppage time.

But Brighton withstood the intense pressure to take all three points.

The results: Brighton 4 (Hinshelwood 11, Pedro 23-pen, 75-pen Estupinan 63) bt Tottenham 2 (Veliz 81, Davies 85); Arsenal 0 lost to West Ham 2 (Soucek 13, Mavropanos 55).

Meera strikes gold

Sports Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Calicut University's Meera Shibu won the triple jump gold with 12.79m in the National women's inter-university athletics which concluded here on Friday.

The results (winners only):
Women: 200m: Kusum Thakur (Himachal Pradesh) 24.13s. **800m:** Gug Kaur (Chandigarh) 2:06.60s. **5000m:** Renu Singh (MJP Rohilkhand) 15:58.33s. **100m hurdles:** Pranvan Prasant Sahu (KIIT) 14.20s. **400m hurdles:** K. Anaswara (Calicut) 59.52s. **Half marathon:** Reshma Dattu Kevate (Shivaji) 1:10:05.00s. **3000m steeple chase:** Navale Bhagyash Lahanu (Shri Govind Guru) 10:14.00s. **Long jump:** Bhagavathi Bhav Yadav (Mangalore) 5.94m. **Triple jump:** Meera Shibu (Calicut) 12.79m. **High jump:** K.H. Saliha (Calicut) 1.74m. **Shot put:** Jasmine Kaur (Lovely Professional) 14.63m. **Discus throw:** Seema (Chaudhary Bansi Lal) 49.45m. **Javelin throw:** Jyoti (Chaudhary Devi Lal) 52.53m. **x100m relay:** Calicut University (46.87s). **4x400m relay:** M.D. University (3:45.20s). **Heptathlon:** Tanushree (Mangalore) 4626 points.

With NADA missing, cheats have a free run at varsities National athletics

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

Every year, athletes come up with some stunning performances at the National inter-university athletics championships. Some skip the Athletics Federation of India's National meets but sometimes even produce India-leading timings and marks at university meets and then work out strategies to get into the Indian team for the major championships.

There is no dope-testing at university meets, the National Anti-Doping Agency's officials do not turn up at varsities Nationals, and that has often helped cheats prosper at these championships.

Seasoned coach George Emmanuel, who went with Kottayam's Mahatma Gandhi University team, spotted used syringes and vials in bathrooms in Bhubaneswar's KIIT Stadium, the venue of the National inter-university women's athletics championships, on Thursday night.

Cause for worry: Used syringes and vials found in stadium washrooms at the National women's varsities championships in Bhubaneswar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Found these from the stadium bathrooms," George told *The Hindu* from Bhubaneswar as he sent a few photos of the illegal stuff used by cheats late on Thursday night and also posted them in the Whatsapp group set up for the meet's coaches and officials.

There were quick reactions from many in the group, and there were calls for NADA to be present in varsities meets in future.

"Very sad.. .where are our athletes headed," asked one.

"Such bad trends can destroy the sport and budding athletes. Therefore, the concerned authorities should ensure the presence of NADA in these meets in the coming years," said another.

25 fail dope tests

The doping scene in Indian sport has reached worrying levels. Reports are now coming in that nearly 25 athletes, including nine in athletics, have failed dope tests taken at the recent National Games in Goa.

And in September, there was the strange case of athletes vanishing from the Delhi State meet when NADA officials turned up to test them after a video clip of the stadium's washroom which showed piles of used syringes went viral. In the end, just one athlete ran the 100m.

A month after that, the men's 5000m at the National Open in Bengaluru had a bizarre scene.

Nobody in the lead bunch appeared keen to win the race, fearing that they might have to undergo a dope test after a successful finish.

The men's varsities National athletics championships, which begins in Chennai on January 4, will offer another golden opportunity for NADA to catch them young.

Carlo Ancelotti. REUTERS

Real extends Ancelotti's contract until 2026

Associated Press
MADRID

Real Madrid has extended Carlo Ancelotti's contract until 2026, seemingly ending Brazil's hopes of hiring him as the new national team coach.

Ancelotti had been linked with a move to Brazil for the past several months, with the president of the Brazilian footbal confederation publicly expressing his desire to hire the Italian coach. Ancelotti had said all along that he would like to remain at Madrid if the club wanted him to stay. His current contract was set to expire at the end of this season.

Mukund Aher wins men's 55kg title

Sports Bureau

Mukund Aher aggregated 249kg to win the men's 55kg title in the National weightlifting championships at Itanagar on Friday.

Jharkhand lifter Babulal Hembrom (193kg) rewrote the National men's 49kg total record by surpassing S. Gurunaidu's 192kg.

The results (elite only): Men: 55kg: 1. Mukund Aher (RSPB) snatch 112kg, clean and jerk 137kg, total 249kg; 2. Uday Mahajan (Mah) 105kg, 136kg, 241kg; 3. Akash Goud (Mah) 106kg, 134kg, 240kg.

Tanisha loses to Kateryna in pre-quarters

Sports Bureau

Tanisha Kashyap was beaten 6-1, 6-1 by Kateryna Lazarenko of Ukraine in the pre-quarterfinals of the $15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Monastir, Tunisia.

Philosophy primed to deliver in the Ice Breaker Trophy

RACING

BENGALURU: Philosophy, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Ice Breaker Trophy (1,600m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Dec. 30). False rails (width about 7.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 BUCKPASSER PLATE (1,200m), maiden 2-y-o only, (Terms), 1-00 p.m.: 1. Helios (5) I. Chisty 56, 2. Striking Fortune (1) Shreyas S 56, 3. Vafadar (4) Trevor 56, 4. Mehra (2) Antony 54.5, 5. Mystical Forest (7) Vivek 54.5, 6. Scarlette Lady (3) G. Vivek 54.5, 7. Silicon Star (8) Ashhad Asbar 54.5 and 8. Three Little Words (6) Tousif 54.5.
1. HELIOS,
2. VAFADAR,
3. SCARLETTE LADY

2 GANGA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 1-30: 1. Benignity (2) P. Siddaraju 61, 2. Princess Jasmine (3) G. Vivek 61, 3. Dawn Rising (6) Hindu S 59.5, 4. Sky Princess (7) R. Pradeep 59, 5. Bellissimo (1) Afsar Khan 58, 6. Pettes Love (5) Vivek 58, 7. Mega Success (9) Jagadeesh 57, 8. Perfect Halo (4) Kiran Rai 57 and 9. Star Citizen (8) Arshad 51.5.
1. STAR CITIZEN,
2. PRINCESS JASMINE,
3. MEGA SUCCESS

3 GANGA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00: 1. She's A Lady (1) Suraj 62.5, 2. Apollo Light (6) P. Siddaraju 62, 3. Striking Eyes (2) Vivek 61.5, 4. Maybach (5) Tousif 60.5, 5. Fair Counsel (8) M. Naveen 60, 6. Way Of Life (9) A. Ramu 60, 7. Firefinch (4) R. Pradeep 59, 8. Sacred Creator (7) Kiran Rai 59 and 9. Lady Godiva (3) Arvind K 57.
1. SHE'S A LADY,
2. APOLLO LIGHT,
3. FAIR COUNSEL

4 CLASSIC STORY PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Twinkle Feet (3) Srinath 60, 2. Agera (2) Antony 58, 3. Silver Swift (9) B.L. Paswan 57, 4 Glow In The Dark (4) Ashhad Asbar 54, 5. Thewhisperquietly (6) Jagadeesh 54, 6. Blues Ballad (5) A. Ramu 53, 7. My Solitaire (8) Arvind K 52, 8. Debonair (1) Saddam H 51.5 and 9. Elite Agent (7) B. Dharshan 50.5.
1. GLOW IN THE DARK,
2. TWINKLE FEET,
3. AGERA

5 SHANTI FALLS PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Super Sapphire (10) M. Chandrashekar 60, 2. Alacero (11) Arvind K 59.5, 3. Instructor (5) M. Naveen 59.5, 4. High Speed Dive (8) A. Ramu 59, 5. Knotty In Blue (4) B.L. Paswan 59, 6. El Alamein (9) Salman Khan 58.5, 7. Greeley (2) L.A. Rozario 58, 8. Princess Gold (3) Shreyas S 58, 9. Sun Flare (1) Antony 58, 10. Tigerking (6) Rayan 56.5, 11. Crimson Star (7) Vivek 56 and 12. Quevega (12) Kiran Rai 56.
1. GREELEY,
2. HIGH SPEED DIVE,
3. INSTRUCTOR

6 HORANADU STAKES (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Fondness Of You (1) Suraj 62, 2. Tripitaka (7) P. Siddaraju 60, 3. Leather Back (6) M. Naveen 59, 4. Maple Leaf (9) Tousif 58, 5. Czar (2) Antony 55.5, 6. Osiris (8) Afsar Khan 55.5, 7. Sofiya (3) Trevor 55.5, 8. Lauterbrunnen (10) Kiran Rai 55, 9. Macron (5) P. Surya 53.5 and 10. Able One (4) Jagadeesh 52.
1. FONDNESS OF YOU,
2. LEATHER BACK,
3. SOFIYA

7 ICE BREAKER TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 4-00: 1. Philosophy (5) Antony 60.5, 2. Balor (7) Srinath 60, 3. Nikolina (3) S. John 60, 4. Stormy Ocean (8) I. Chisty 59.5, 5. Bruce Almighty (4) Hindu S 58.5, 6. Stellar Gold (2) Jagadeesh 57.5, 7. Excellent Ray (6) Suraj 56, 8. Aquamatic (9) Trevor 55 and 9. Memorable Time (1) Shreyas S 55.
1. PHILOSOPHY,
2. AQUAMATIC,
3. EXCELLENT RAY

8 SHANTI FALLS PLATE (DIV. I). (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-30: 1. Step To Destiny (2) G. Vivek 61.5, 2. Bold Act (12) Suraj 59, 3. Remontoir (3) Jagadeesh 57, 4. The Omega Man (4) Hindu S 57, 5. Crosswater (8) Antony 56, 6. Knotty Challenger (11) Indrajeet S 56, 7. The Strikingly (9) A. Ramu 56, 8. Asagiri (10) Ashok K 55.5, 9. Contractor (1) Ashhad Asbar 55, 10. Friya (6) I. Chisty 53.5, 11. Phoebe (7) R. Pradeep 53.5 and 12. Shadow' Saim (5) Rayan 53.5.
1. BOLD ACT,
2. CROSSWATER,
3. STEP TO DESTINY

9 CLASSIC STORY PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Aherne (3) Srinath 61, 2. Cash Out (5) R. Pradeep 61, 3. Schafenberg (7) Saddam H 58, 4. Solid Power (2) Tousif 58, 5. Sekhmet (4) Hindu S 57.5, 6. Breeze Bluster (6) G. Vivek 57, 7. Super Veloce (1) P. Surya 55 and 8. Kallu Sakkare (8) A. Ramu 53.5.
1. BREEZE BLUSTER,
2. AHERNE,
3. KALLU SAKKARE
Day's best: **BOLD ACT**
Double: **SHE'S A LADY – PHILOSOPHY**
Jkt: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6; (iii): 7, 8 and 9.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Max Muller is the under-16 inter-school champion

Max Muller HS defeated St. Joseph's Indian HS in the final to emerge as the KSCA Cup under-16 inter-school Division I league champion.

The scores:
Max Muller HS 103 in 49.3 overs (Nitish Arya 25, Prasad Kumar 3/21) and 113 in 33.3 overs (Sean Pratyush 28, Karan Raghavendra 29 n.o., Abhay Surya 3/21) bt St. Joseph's Indian HS 130 in 58.3 overs (Tejas Reddy 69, Prasad Kumar 25 n.o., Kashish Bahuguna 3/36, Arya Gowda 5/38) and 38 in 20.2 overs (Abhyuday Bhargav 7/11).

Victors: The triumphant under-16 Max Muller HS cricket team.

Tushar does the star turn for Bangalore United

Tushar Singh (171 n.o.) starred for Bangalore United CC (1) against Friends Union CC (1) in the KSCA Group I, Division I league here.

The scores:
Bangalore United (1) 307/9 in 90 overs (Tushar Singh 171 n.o., Vinay Sagar 22, Kishan Bedare 34, I.G. Anil 5/99) drew with Friends Union (1) 289 in 59.3 overs (B.U. Shivakumar 66, G.S. Chiranjeevi 81, Stalin Hoover 60, Mithun Bhat 32, M. Venkatesh 4/49, Dushyanth Venkat 3/77).
Swastic Union (2) 338 in 68.2 overs (Vishal Onat 51, Mohammed Taha 53, Aneeshwar Gautam 52, Sujay Sateri 81, Mohsin Khan 50, S. Punith 4/135, Kushaal Wadhwani 3/44) and 33/2 decl. in 3.4 overs drew with Sir Syed Cricketers 295 in 77.2 overs (Atharv Malviya 65, Kushaal Wadhwani 41, Luvnith Sisodia 57, P. Dhruv 68, S. Suraj 27, Mohsin Khan 3/66).

Vultures CC 303 in 78.2 overs (Srujan Nandan 33, K.P. Karthikeya 63, Faizan Khan 83, Shikhar Shetty 33, M.B. Darshan 53, K.A. Tejas 4/43, N. Rohan 4/44) drew with Rajajinagar Cricketers 277 in 75.2 overs (Sanjay Ashwin 126 n.o., Rahul Prasanna 55, Santokh Singh 3/44, M.B. Darshan 4/60).

Mount Joy CC 252 in 75.4 overs (Pareexith Okkunda 55, Samarth Srinivas 37, B.R. Sharath 74, J. Suchith 48, Paras Gurbax 6/70) drew with Swastic Union (1) 257/7 in 61.1 overs (R. Samarth 84, E.J. Jasper 37, N.A. Chinmay 65, S. Rakshith 25).

Cambridge 296 in 80.5 overs (Macneil Hadley 88, Rajkumar 26, Abhay Rangan 54, S.S.G. Rohiet 33, N.V. Pranav 3/37, Varun Rao 3/71) drew with Bangalore Occasionals 280 in 83.1 overs (Niranjan 97, Rahul Singh 32, Rajvir Wadhwa 56, Varun Rao 37, Shubhang Hegde 5/78, Dheeraj Gowda 4/87).

Social Cricketers 240 in 82.4 overs (Sudhanwa Kulkarni 68, K.V. Aneesh 27, Aadarsh Prajwal 81, Hardik Raj 3/72) drew with Coles CC 227 in 63.1 overs (L.R. Chethana 31, Hardik Raj 78, Mohammad Ashfaq 4/30).

Sourabh gets the better of Sanskar

Sourabh Verma of ONGC defeated S. Sanskar of IOCL 21-17, 21-11 in the men's semifinals of the 42nd PSPB inter-unit badminton tournament here on Friday.

In the other semifinal, BPCL's Aditya Joshi took out Shodhan Nakshatri of GAIL 21-19, 21-11.

New record by Hitaishi

V. Hitaishi created a new women's 100m breaststroke meet record at the 34th South Zone aquatic championship here on Friday.

Karnataka won the overall championship.

The results: New meet records: Women: 100m breaststroke: V. Hitaishi (Kar), 1:20.59s (OMR: Divya Guruswamy, Kar, 1:22.07s, 2012). **Boys: 200m butterfly:** Deva Ganesh (AP), 2:11.87s (OMR: Adhithyan Nair, Ker, 2:12.39s, 2022).
Overall champion: Karnataka.